

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street , SW
Washington D.C. 2042

Trish Kurth
1621 Stonebridge Dr.
New Lenox, IL 60451

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

My Family and I live about two miles from the EJ&J Rail Road which is being purchased by a Company from Canada. The tracks run along the corn field that is my back yard. I am aware that the transportation board's job is to promote commerce within the United States. I am also aware that the sale is pretty much a done deal. The right hands have been shaken and the almighty city of Chicago is for it, so what chance does a small town with few citizens have? My husband and I are not real happy with the possibility of never being able to sell our home, but that is not my greatest concern. I have three children and quite a few older neighbors that live in our subdivision. The thought that an emergency vehicle may not be able to get to one of them because of a train blocking the only two entrances into our subdivision scares me to death. We all know how important it is to get a heart attack patient to the hospital as soon as possible, how every second counts. How will that family feel when their loved one dies because a train blocked their way. Silver Cross Hospital is a ten minute drive from my house. It has always been a comfort for me to know it is right there if my family should need it. There is no way to get to the hospital without having to cross that set of tracks. My other concern is for my children. They will be attending our new High School that is sitting on the other side of the track. My children could walk to school. They will not be able to do that with all of the train traffic that we will be getting. I also worry that they will not be able to get to school on time because their bus will be sitting at the crossing. It is only a matter of time before a child tries to make it to school on time and races a train either on foot or in a car. My family crosses the tracks at least 6 times a day. We need to get to the expressway, work and school not to mention all of my children's activities, which I am sure is not a big deal to a huge rail road. But I wonder if it was their family member sitting and waiting constantly, or their loved one dying in the ambulance would it make a difference? I guess my family is asking you to put pressure on the Canadian Railway to make the lives of the American citizens that you are suppose to be looking out for ahead of their trillion dollar deal. Especially with the state of the U.S.'s finances right now, make some other country pay for the use of our tracks. Because the people of small town U.S.A. can't afford to do it themselves right now. If the sale is to go ahead PLEASE make sure the Canadian Railway helps the small towns out by giving us a way over their tracks. I am sure if the United States was the one making a bid they would make us pay for the safety of their citizens.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR DECISION.

Thank You for whatever you can do.
The Kurth Family of New Lenox