

Trinita DeCamp
1201 Andrea Drive
New Lenox, IL 60451

September 30, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to protest the proposed acquisition of Canadian National Railroad (CN) to purchase the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway (EJ&E).

As a resident of New Lenox, I will be directly impacted by this purchase in a negative way. My home butts up directly against the train tracks. From my kitchen window, I can literally see the face of the engineer. At the end of the fence on my property line, there's maybe 25 feet of easement and then the tracks. As it is, I feel the vibration from every passing train quite viscerally. That's not even mentioning the loud whistles to announce the train's presence that currently occur six times a day.

The proposed acquisition would quadruple the train traffic from six a day to estimates of 26 to 30 per day with train lengths extending three miles. To say my quality of life would be greatly decreased is an understatement.

In addition to the possible structural damage to my house from the vibrations caused by increased train traffic, the noise pollution, the pollution from both the train and car emissions caught at the crossing for 20 minutes, I am concerned about losing access to vital emergency services. I have a stepdaughter with three chronic illnesses, one of which is Type 1 Diabetes. Since we live south of the train tracks, we have no choice but to cross the tracks to get to a hospital and emergency services. Should she experience a low and need emergency treatment, paramedics would have to cross the tracks to get her to Silver Cross Hospital (the nearest hospital). Every second counts, and I could never forgive myself if something happened to her because of our decision to move here.

I moved from Chicago's southwest side to get away from the congestion and pollution. I lived near Midway Airport in a condo. I had a bus stop directly below my balcony. I

was in Midway's flight pattern, on 63rd Street (car traffic), within two blocks of a horrendous railroad crossing (63rd Street near Harlem Avenue) and had an empty lot behind me where refrigerated trucks were plugged in overnight making noise. My decision to move south was to get away from all that and here I am facing that again.

To add insult to injury, I'm told that CN is only willing to come up with the funds to make mitigations on four crossings in the Lincolnway area. There are at least five grade-level crossings in New Lenox alone and that doesn't even take into consideration Mokena and Frankfort which are also considered part of the Lincolnway area. Being that I live so close to the tracks, I don't even see how a sound barrier could be constructed to reduce the noise pollution. The tracks are too close and I don't believe there's enough room. So, the possibilities are this. There's not enough room to add a sound barrier or CN's not willing to pay for the construction of one so I'm left with increased sound and pollution. Or I get to pay higher taxes to pay for the construction of a barrier. And if a barrier is built, I get to look at a wall. And I get to pay higher taxes for the pleasure of doing so. And did I mention that my property value decreases so now I have less equity in my home?

I understand why CN's considering the purchase of these tracks, but there is not one redeeming factor for the residents of New Lenox if this acquisition is allowed to go through. So approval of this purchase would put the interests of a foreign company before that of thousands of United States citizens. And it's probably hundreds of thousands or more if you consider the other affected communities in the arc of the tracks. So, why do it? Why allow a foreign company to come in and disrupt the quality of life and negatively impact so many of our own citizens?

I implore you to seriously consider this acquisition and vote it down. I don't just oppose this - I vehemently oppose this purchase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Trinita DeCamp".

Trinita DeCamp

Seven year resident of New Lenox, IL and concerned citizen