

17005

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am a resident of Frankfort, and I am formally **opposing** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

Environmental Impact

If the CN purchase of the EJ & E is allowed to proceed, the impact to surrounding schools, churches and neighborhoods will have devastating consequences. The sound and vibration of thundering, fuming freight trains every 51 minutes will be felt for miles along these tracks. The noise and most concerning, the increased risk of a toxic spill due to the 600% spike in harmful chemicals hauling through town at 45 miles per hour begs the question, "Will the STB ensure that the final environmental impact study addresses the significant negative environmental impact to our community?"

The Cost to US Taxpayers

The \$40 million CN has proposed to spend on infrastructure improvements is a drop in the bucket. Who will pay for the rest of the underpasses, grade separations and projected necessary infrastructure improvements that are needed to support projected population growth. Who will pay for the anticipated decline in property values? If the STB approves this transaction, then CN should be required to pay.

Emergency Response

Minutes count when lives are at stake. With 28 trains a day, police cars and fire trucks will be forced to wait with their sirens blaring, and considering Frankfort's population is anticipated to top 55,000, the impact could cost lives.

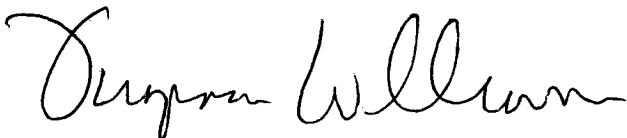
Is Congestion Better in the Suburbs?

Moving Chicago's rail congestion to the suburbs is not an effective solution. Please consider that relocating this problem does not effectively address the issue.

CN Safety Record

It has been 25 years since the EJ&E tracks in Frankfort have received major repairs. Considering CN's reluctance to implement Canadian safety measures, and its employees' "culture of fear," does the STB expect CN to honor US safety requirements? Please give CN's safety record your utmost priority when considering this purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Duane" being more prominent and the last name "Williams" following in a similar style.

Hello, how are you doing this fine day? It was nice talking to you this morning. My wife, Ginny and I have really taken this issue to heart. Yesterday was our 30th Anniversary, but we felt very strongly about attending the meeting last night at Briedert Green. We left Cook County, the town of Glenwood, because of declining property values. Our home was paid for. Cook County politics is just a travesty. Vote early and often. Pass your position on in the family. Retire with big checks taking advantage of the system, all the while pleading ignorance. We came to Will County, Frankfort in particular, to join a growing community, yet very stable. The lifestyle of historic Frankfort is just so family-oriented and friendly. My wife and I would attend Frankfort Fest each year and just dream about making a home there. We finally did it. We took on debt in a new home and higher taxes, but considered it a worthwhile expense. Frankfort just held so much promise for a better future.

Now, we feel threatened. A foreign company, Canada National, wants to run their trains through our nice quiet neighborhood and upset our lifestyle. The trains would increase from 6 a day to 28 a day, hazardous materials deliveries would increase from 2 a day to 14 a day. My chances of being held up by trains increases and while I sit there, I waste gas idling in my car. If I need emergency care and there is a train coming thru town, the ambulance may have to go one of the two viaducts, Lagrange Road or Governors Hwy in Matteson and we know they have a history of flooding. And the icing on the cake is I PAY FOR IT!! They make huge profits at my expense. I don't think so! Big business needs to find another way. The Mayor mentioned running the line further out in rural areas where there is not a negative impact on the residents of a town. In fact, the farmers may get an advantage of taking their crops in by train. That sounds like a win-win proposition. I'm sure it would cost CN additional dollars, but they can afford it. I can't and won't let this ruin our dreams. I trust you will do everything you can to stop this acquisition. You can count on me to stir the pot wherever and whenever I can. I'm an idealist and I still believe that government should be of the people, by the people, and for the people (Abraham Lincoln - Gettysburg Address)

Sincerely,

Tom Williamson & Virginia Williamson

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