

September 28, 008

STB Board,

I am opposing CN's purchase of the EJ&E line. This is basically like replacing a lightly traveled 2 lane road with an expressway. Homeowners will have much more noise and delays in their daily life and users of the surrounding roads will have their commutes to school and work disrupted, not to mention problems with emergency vehicles.

No one in the affected areas deserve the unforeseen increase in long freight trains that will accompany this proposed purchase and the effect it will have on daily lives as well as property values.

That's not to say I oppose any increase in train traffic, but CN should pay for the full costs of noise and traffic mitigation, just as there would be in any building of a highway. This would include landscaped berms, reducing the grade of the railroad to go under the local streets and any other safety features that would be required. The cost should not go to local, state or federal governments. There are just too many problems our country faces to allow another big company, especially a foreign one, to tap into our tax payer dollars. I just do not see CN stepping up to deliver any of the funding for these initiatives.

I know you will see this as another attempt by large company to force tax payers to shoulder the burden and act judiciously.

Thanks,
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