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August 22, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Please be advised I am against the acquisition of EJ&E by the Canadian National Railway (CN).

EJ&E presently runs fewer than 10 trains per day; and less than that on weekends. CN hints at daily train count somewhere upwards of 27 trains around the clock Seven days a week. The real number will likely exceed 40 trains a day not counting potential train traffic from other railroads that have or may be given trackage rights to run over this rail line.

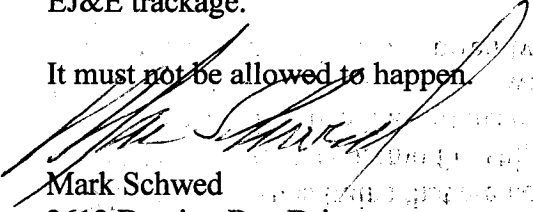
EJ&E presently runs trains that are not excessive in length and carry very little in the way of hazardous commodity shipments. CN will run long trains, more frequently, with increasing levels of hazardous materials. Tonnage weights on the rails will increase. CN will run more locomotives that will weigh more, make more noise, and add more pollutants to our air than we currently contend with from EJ&E.

The risk of rail accidents will be significantly greater. Data from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement states a 28% increase in these accidents.

The EJ&E was not engineered to carry commerce of the size, type, and weights that CN intends to run over those lines. The communities alongside the EJ&E right of way will not be adequately protected from the level of use, danger, noise, and pollution that CN plans to subject those rail lines to.

Mitigation costs to remedy these issues to the satisfaction of communities affected by CN's use of EJ&E will be in the billions of dollars. CN to date offers little help to remedy the cost of these maladies that CN will create if they are allowed to own or operate over EJ&E trackage.

It must not be allowed to happen.


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