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September 29, 2008

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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

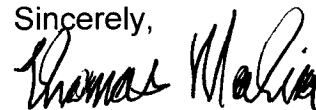
Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a business man myself, I can appreciate the frustration of dealing with people who want our economy to keep growing and expanding, but do not want have such growth or development impact their "back-yards". Further, I understand the CN Railway's motivation to expand its rail traffic through the Chicago suburbs and the on-going need, as our economy and population grows, to have the components of such growth impact someone's "back-yard".

However, in any other development/expansion scenario that I can think of, while the development brings some negative implications with it, there are also some positive implications. So, for instance, if a new factory is to be built in my "back-yard", it brings with it additional property taxes or local employment opportunities, etc. The problem I have with the CN's proposal is that small communities like Barrington are being asked to deal with the negative implications-traffic delays, safety concerns, etc.-but there is absolutely no upside for our communities. If this proposal is so attractive to the CN, they should pay the real cost of implementing it and mitigating the detrimental impact it will have on the affected communities. If in paying these costs-and they will be sizeable-the CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad is no longer economically attractive to them, then this is a development or an expansion that should not occur.

Please do not support the CN'S proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad unless, as part of such acquisition, they are also responsible for paying the real cost of mitigating the negative impact such expanded rail traffic will have on the affected suburban communities.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Malia