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

Dear Madam:

I am speaking on behalf of thousands of residents, citizens and tax-payers whose way of life is threatened by CN's proposed purchase of EJ&E railway and the consequent huge increase in the rail traffic in the suburbs of Chicago. We are made to look uncooperative and without public spirit because we oppose this purchase.

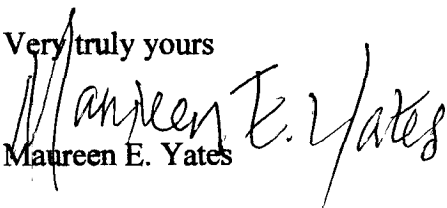
Time and again I have been told, "This is a foregone conclusion and it is useless protesting!" CN's lack of response to our concerns shows a supreme arrogance that can only be explained by the 'foregone conclusion' theory. Or is there some other influence at work? We all remember Meigs Field. The areas that approve of these plans should be wary because, they may have been told now that trains through their areas will decrease, but there are no limits on increasing the number of trains. You get a reduction until CN decides otherwise!

I ask that you not hand over our lives and our livelihoods to CN for their profit, for the following reasons: 1. Danger; 2.Delay in medical and fire access; 3.Heavy road traffic congestion; 4.Economic loss; 5.Environment destruction; 6.Revenue loss due to reduced property values. I know you have heard all this before, but it is vital for our citizens.

WHY NOT USE THE RAIL TRACKS ALREADY IN PLACE! The circle is wider and would be longer, but it goes through much less populated areas. It will be less expensive in the long run.

Very truly yours

Maureen E. Yates



Copies to:

Senator Dick Durbin
Senator Barack Obama
Congresswomen Melissa Bean
Congressman Mark Kirk
Congressman Don Manzullo

Administrator Fight Rail Congestion, Mrs. Karen Darch
Chicago Tribune – R. Bruce Dold
Daily Herald – Jim Baumann, Managing Editor
Northwest Herald – Dan McCaleb, Snr. Managing Editor
Pioneer Press – Paul Sassone, Senior Editor