

September 22, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I, and my daughter, who is disabled, attended the Aurora meeting at West Aurora High School, and my first comment which I must say is that this location was very inconsiderate for the distance we had to drive, the cost of gasoline, and needless to say it was in no way close to the railway being discussed. The location appeared to be a manipulative and yet somewhat successful way of keeping away the people most affected by the railway acquisition. In addition, the facilities were not handicapped accessible which would have been eliminated had the discussions been located at the newer buildings in the districts affected by the CN railway.

We are very much in agreement with all the speakers who were prepared in opposition to the CN acquisition of the EJ & E Railway. We also agree with Representative Tom Cross as to the significant negative impact this would make on our community, i.e., already congested roads, access to the train and interstate, access to two vital hospitals & employment, noise pollution and safety. Due to the number of schools on the main streets and the increase in student drivers crossing these railroads, there are bound to be more accidents.

I was not informed when I purchased nearly three years ago of the proposed increase in railway traffic. This is vital information I, as a homeowner, SHOULD HAVE BEEN informed of prior to purchase. I responded by email when it came to my attention to meet a deadline for objection, that I would prefer to sell my property to EJ & E or CN Railway at its original value than to remain and be aware of the disadvantages we as homeowners will encounter. We, the homeowners will have decreases in property value, in addition to the negative impacts of the issues previously mentioned.

As a very senior individual who returned to the area due to a surgery mishap of my daughter, leaving her disabled, I am voting **NO** to the acquisition. I hear trains now day and night and to have an increase up to 48 per day would drive all to be insane as we hope to get service for health and those who need to get to work. The non-disclosure is bad, be it the railroad or the developer. We as a neighborhood should not have to plead for our health, our safety and convenience.

You have a system in place although CN Railway wants to alleviate Chicago (prior to the Olympic games) we should not bear the burden. We are already over taxed with traffic.

Thank you for all efforts to let our voices be heard.



Helen S. Hatchett



Deborah L. Hatchett