



COUNTY BOARD

DuPage County

(630) 407-6023

January 17, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS FD-35087

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Cc. Original - Job File

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

HDR

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Surface Transportation Board at today's Open House in West Chicago, Illinois. Thank you also to you and your staff for scheduling these sessions in the two-state area for residents and stakeholders who will be affected by the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by the Canadian National (CN).

As a member of the DuPage County Board representing the western third of the County, my district and its residents will be, in my opinion, adversely affected by the proposed acquisition.

There are 18 at-grade crossings in DuPage County, as well as 3 at-grade recreational trail crossings and one sidewalk crossing that serves West Chicago High School. I am told that on one segment within the County, and in my district, train traffic will increase six-fold, from 4 to 24 trains per day. This number only covers the three-year implementation period for CN, and probably understates the true future impact. **That is why it is so very important that the EIS address future traffic projections after the completion of the implementation period.** I am also very concerned that the CN could sell capacity to other freight haulers, thereby increasing the traffic even further.

My constituents are very concerned about quality of life issues. This includes safety at railroad crossings, increased delay time, noise and air pollution, impact on emergency vehicles and call-outs, and quiet zones. Who is going to pay for these zones that will now be needed, and additionally, more protection at most of the crossings? What, if any consideration, is being given to the construction of grade separations? My communities and the County cannot fund these additional improvements without financial assistance from the Railroad.

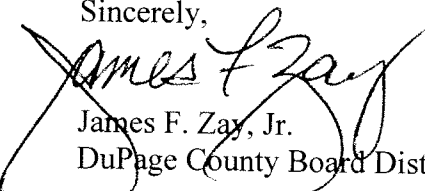
I am also very concerned about the impact this acquisition will have on the proposed STAR Line, a New Starts Project that is presently nearly completion in the Alternatives Analysis phase. The project is considered critical to mitigate suburb-to-suburb congestion, as well as providing another mode of transportation. **Because CN has said that they will not share freight rail with passenger rail, I fear that this proposed acquisition will effectively kill the STAR Line.** While there may be additional right-of-way available for Metra to purchase for the passenger line, funding constraints could preclude that from occurring. We have some communities in the county and in the corridor that have already purchased right-of-way for stations, parking and other necessities. This is an extremely important issue to my constituents, and I beg your consideration of these matters before you render a decision on the acquisition.

While some communities and the City of Chicago may benefit from this purchase, it is abundantly clear that that will **NOT** be the case for DuPage County and my constituents. There is a tremendous need for mitigation in many areas, as I noted previously.

DuPage County staff will be preparing formal comments relating to the draft EIS shortly, but as an elected official who represents residents abutting this corridor, I wanted to take this opportunity to share my deep concerns with you concerning this matter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment, and your consideration of my comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,



James F. Zay, Jr.

DuPage County Board District 6