

Board Member W. Douglas Buttrey
 395 E. Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20423-0001

September 4, 2008



Dear Mr. Buttrey:

As a resident of Lake Zurich, Illinois, I would like to state my strong opposition to the Canadian National Rail Road's acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Road currently pending an environmental review by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board in Washington, D.C. This acquisition has absolutely no value for Lake Zurich or any of the other Illinois communities along the EJ&E rail line and in fact will only serve to destroy the local environment and ruin the economy of our communities. The State of Illinois and the Chicago metropolitan area can ill afford the negative consequences of this transaction.

That said, it is now important to point out the fatal flaws in the EIS and to point out the costly mitigation measures that the CN and not Lake Zurich and US tax payers should incur in the unlikely event the STB approves this foolish attempt to monopolize the railroad freight industry in the US; which is the ultimate plan of the CN.

The Village President of Lake Zurich and the Board of Trustees have gone on record opposing the transaction, and I as a resident taxpayer strongly oppose this acquisition. My specific reasons are spelled out below:

- The acquisition will bombard quiet residential neighborhoods and school properties with increased noise and vibrations from dramatically increased train traffic.
- Disruptions to various businesses, negative impact on property values and hesitancy to build will impair realization of current and future plans within the Downtown redevelopment area.
- Additional delays from increased train traffic will negatively impact public, vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Average train lengths of 10,000 feet will block our at-grade crossings and all major arterial roads near these at-grade crossings.
- The added delay will increase emergency response times of the Village's emergency services personnel and will potentially cause unnecessary loss of life.
- Community School District 95 buses cross the Village's at-grade crossings 233 times per day and increased train traffic will dramatically impact transportation of students and the added trains will increase potential train/school bus conflicts.
- Lake Zurich High School and May Whitney Elementary School directly abut the existing railroad tracks thereby presenting a hazard to students that will cross the tracks despite the danger and the warnings.
- Many School District 95 classrooms and children are within a few hundred yards of hazardous rail cargo.

- The long-planned and much-needed commuter rail service, STAR Line, is slated to use the EJ&E tracks which would decrease the amount of carbon emissions by reducing automobile traffic. The proposed transaction will jeopardize STAR Line's viability and effectiveness with significant negative impact on the region's traffic congestion and air quality.

The STB needs to clearly understand our economic situation and must require the CN be 100% financially accountable to mitigate all of the adverse public safety and environmental impacts imparted on the Village of Lake Zurich.

Transportation Systems – The intersections at Old Rand Road and East Main Street would experience traffic backing up over the tracks, especially around school times and during the AM and PM rush hours. CN should fund construction of overpasses and/or underpasses for the following at-grade crossings: Oakwood Road, East Main Street, Old Rand Road, and Cuba Road. The Village believes that mitigation for these at grade crossing is appropriate and warranted.

In closing, I would encourage the STB to REJECT the Canadian National Rail Road acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Road as this is the only correct decision given the catastrophic impact it will have in Lake Zurich and all of the communities in the Chicago metropolitan area. I wish to thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Judy Niemann
475 Red Bridge Rd.
Lake Zurich, IL. 60047

CC: Village of Lake Zurich, 70 E. Main St., Lake Zurich, IL 60047