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January 25, 2008

Anne K. Quinlan, Esq.
Acting Secretary Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

I am writing to express concern over **Finance Docket No. 35087** for CN's acquisition, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago. The negative impacts to the communities located along this proposed route are substantial. My concerns include the following:

- Noise and Vibration – There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville. With the school's proximity to the tracks, as well as its location between two crossings, the number of trains crossing throughout the school day would create unacceptable noise and vibration levels.
- Traffic – In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area, the delays caused by the freight trains will have a negative impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross.
- Air quality – For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day - the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality.
- Safety – The increased rail traffic will have many negative safety impacts including higher probabilities of at-grade crossing accidents and derailment of trains transporting hazardous materials.

I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition, construction and increased operations I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,



cc: Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EIS/EIS - FD-35087
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