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Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National

September 23, 2008

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I have been a resident of Frankfort, Illinois for the past nineteen years, and I am totally opposed to the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by the Canadian National Railroad for the following reasons:

The increase of long freight trains moving day and night through our town will significantly reduce the emergency vehicles' response time when such response time is often a matter of life or death to the person or persons calling for help. Our town has only one underpass to the EJ&E railroad, and during our recent rain storms this underpass was flooded and closed. Thus, if a long Canadian National freight train was blocking other grade crossings at the same time an emergency vehicle needed to cross, response time would be far too long.

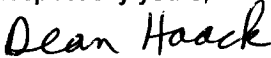
The Canadian National Railroad Company has stated that it would only pay 5% of any upgrade or under or overpasses in our town if needed. With only one underpass we would need another under or over pass to avoid the problem of the flooding as noted above. Who would pay for the other 95% needed to improve response times within our town. Our state and federal governments are already financially stressed. Why should the taxpayers of Frankfort be forced to incur such a financial burden when the Canadian National Railroad would garner a lot of profits from this proposed acquisition!

Another grave concern is the projected increase in hazardous materials traffic which the Federal Highway Administration noted will increase 55% between 1998 and 2020. Any freight traffic carrying such materials would expose our community to poisonous chemicals, radioactive materials, and even explosives. Based on the Canadian government's own study that stated the Canadian National Railroad has the lowest safety levels designed to offset accidents, we the citizens of Frankfort seem to be put in a place where a horrendous accident is only waiting to happen!

In conclusion, I cannot believe that our own government would be willing to allow our town and other towns along this route to be subjected to a daily 400% increase in freight traffic by a "foreign" owned railroad company.

Please do not support such an acquisition that we the people vehemently oppose!

Respectfully yours,


Dean Haack