

Lottie Cocanig
606 Pine Grove Court
New Lenox, IL 60451

September 15, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20434

Re: **Proposed Canadian National Railway Company's Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway – Draft Environmental Impact Statement
House Bill 6707**

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of New Lenox, Illinois, I am deeply concerned about the Canadian National Railway Company's ("CNR") proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway ("EJ&E"). My concerns are as follows:

1. **Safety Issue** – The total number of train crossings per day will increase from the present 6 to 28 (and probably more) with train cars totaling more than 2 miles long. That would mean more than 2 crossings per hour. This creates a big problem in that it would prevent ambulances, police cars and fire trucks to cross tracks in emergencies. By an ambulance waiting to cross, a person could die in the meantime. By a fire truck waiting to cross, people could have serious damage done to their homes or even losing a life. By a police car waiting to cross, something serious could happen in the way of robberies or violence. The number of train accidents will increase by about 28%. Our children will be subjected to dangerous risks who live and play in the area. Children will be late for school since the school buses will now have to cross tracks that have a significant increase in traffic. Pedestrian and bicycle accidents in addition to train vs. car collisions will increase. People who take the Metro train to work downtown will be greatly affected.
2. **Environmental Issue**. I very much oppose the transporting of hazardous materials to a location in Illinois and to another state. It is bad enough that these hazardous materials will be dumped in another town not too far from New Lenox, let alone passing it through New Lenox. I am concerned about the spillage that will result from transporting the hazardous materials. Why are we permitting CNR to transport hazardous material from China into the U.S.?
3. **Energy Issue**. There will be an increase in annual energy use and diesel fuel by trains and trucks stopped at crossings. With the price of gas at the present, the public will be

subjected to buying more fuel because of the wasted gasoline experienced by cars stuck at crossings.

4. **Noise and Property Value Issues.** More than 30 parks in close proximity to the EJ&E will experience increased levels of noise and vibration in addition to decrease air quality. Our air is already polluted enough without more coming from EJ&E. Residential property values will likely decrease for homes within 30 feet of the tracks. I most certainly would not purchase a home near railroad tracks with that amount of crossings.

There are many other issues that will need to be addressed before the decision is made for the proposed transaction. I have given you my issues that are bothersome should this transaction be approved. Large railway companies should not even go through small towns such as New Lenox to transport hazardous materials which will create many problems for its residents. My husband and I moved to New Lenox because it is a beautiful town which offers much to its residents. I don't want to see what will happen to this town should Canadian National run its cars right through the center of its downtown. One other issue I have a problem with and that is why is a foreign company even considered to purchase an American company and go through our towns with hazardous materials. I doubt every much that would be considered if the tables were reversed.

Please, we do not want a foreign corporation transporting foreign hazardous materials to run through our town and disrupting our lives. We do not need CNR.

Sincerely,



Lottie Cocanig