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September 28, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087, CN Purchase of the EJ&E

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of a community that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if Canadian National Railway (CN) is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the interests of the residents of our region are protected against the negative impacts of this acquisition.

I am very concerned that my community will be facing significant issues related to public safety, environment, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and economic losses if this acquisition is approved.

The CN projects rail traffic to increase from 15.7 to 42.3 trains per day on the rail segment that runs through highly congested residential areas of Plainfield, IL. This increased train traffic presents significant challenges to the quality of life of our residents and businesses.

I oppose the CN purchase of EJ&E because of the following concern:

- **Traffic Congestion:** At-grade crossings along the EJ & E are strategic links within the region for the movement of residents, employees, emergency responders, and goods. The increase in train traffic, and the increase length of trains, will only increase delays, congestion, and emissions at intersection throughout the community.
- **STAR Line:** Communities have invested millions of dollars in support of the STAR Line commuter rail service which will decrease congestion in the region through intersuburban commuter rail. If the CN purchase of EJ&E is allowed to occur the addition of a needed commuter light rail line (STAR Line) would be eliminated. The addition of the STAR Line would improve quality of life for the Southwester suburbs not degrade it like the CN proposal would.
- **Increased Train Traffic Noise:** I am very concerned for the noise impacts based on increased train traffic. This includes engine noise and surface vibration. The city is also in the process of establishing a quiet zone and does not want to see the quiet zone status at risk due to this transaction.

- Potential Costs to Communities and the State of Illinois: As currently proposed, communities will face enormous costs to offset the impacts of the increase in train traffic. The regions businesses and residents should not shoulder the costs of CN's operational efficiency.
- Increased Frequency of Hazardous Material Hauling: I am greatly concerned with the potential increase of Hazardous Material be hauled through highly congested residential areas. CN's estimate of 43 carloads per day growing to 380 carloads per day is a serious concern.

The impacts to residents and businesses along the EJ & E line are real and should not be dismissed through the consideration of this transaction. Please consider this letter as a **STRONG OPPOSITION** to the CN acquisition of the EJ & E as currently structured.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and assistance!

Very Respectfully,

Marcus E. Liskey

