

September 29, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

We are writing to express our **opposition** to the prospective acquisition of the EJ&E line by Canadian National Railway. This acquisition will have a huge negative impact on a multitude of local communities. This will touch the lives of many people and the people and the communities they live in will absorb the adverse repercussions unfairly. The increased number of longer and faster freight trains running through the proposed neighborhoods will result in a severe impact on safety, economy, environment, metro commuter service and the future growth and development of several communities. **There will be:**

- More accidents and deaths along the rail line
- Economic impacts
- An increase in automobile traffic gridlock at rail crossings
- Increased risk of spilled contaminants
- Elevated pollution and noise levels
- Dangerously longer response times of our Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Teams
- Disruption and/or closure of local business activities
- Adverse impact on our property values
- Adverse impact on taxpayers

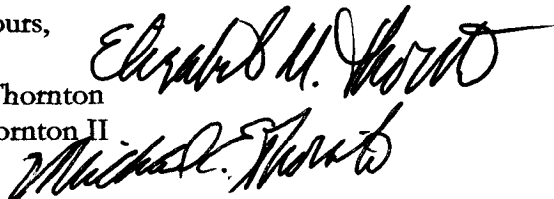
Additionally, recent studies by RTA have revealed that a potential overcrowding of the EJ&E lines will also interfere with commuter METRA train lines affecting our ability to get to and from our workplaces in a timely manner.

Please carefully consider all the issues presented and do not let the communities be "railroaded" by Canadian National. Please consider all the surrounding communities that will be impacted as well. We are hopeful and confident that you will make the decision to vote against this acquisition and to help keep our communities safe for us and for future generations.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth M. Thornton

Michael E. Thornton II

The block contains two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for Elizabeth M. Thornton, written in a cursive style. The bottom signature is for Michael E. Thornton II, also in cursive, and is partially overlapping the text of the first signature.