

16447

September 9, 2008

The Honorable Judy Biggert
United States Congress
1034 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

and

The Honorable Bill Foster
United States Congress
2034 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of HR6707 to Oppose the Canadian National Railway (CN) Purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E)

Dear Representatives Biggert and Foster:

As a resident of a community that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if CN is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, I ask that you do everything in your power to stop this deal before it is too late and support HR 6707, the "Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety" Act.

With its planned acquisition of the EJ&E, CN has become the poster child in highlighting the necessity for this clarification of law. It does not make sense to give a private railroad company the ability to determine what is in the best interests of the area and require that taxpayers pay the costs for roadway, environmental, noise and vibration mitigation.

As you may be aware, this proposed bill would require the STB to more thoroughly consider the impacts of a transaction on the surrounding communities and reinforces the STB's ability to include mitigation requirements. The bill changes rail law to explicitly tell the Board that "it shall not approve a transaction" if the adverse impacts on safety and affected communities "outweigh the transportation benefits."

I am very concerned about public safety, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and environmental and economic losses. I appreciate your public opposition of this transaction and ask that you step in as our federal elected representatives and take whatever action necessary in order to prevent a transaction that will devastate the economic viability and livability of your congressional districts. I ask that you take all these comments into consideration.

Additional Comments:

Sincerely,

Name:

Chris & Kacie McLeod

Address:

16114 GAMAY DR.
PLAINFIELD, IL 60586

cc: Congressional Transportation Committee