

9/29/08

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am a resident of New Lenox IL, and I am formally **opposing** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

I have 2 small children and live on the South side of New Lenox. The thought of freight trains in my town going from 6 to 28 per day is GREATLY concerning. Here in New Lenox, ALL police, fire, and emergency services are on the north side of town. So what if my 3 year old boy falls of the jungle gym and breaks his leg? What if my little girl has an asthma attack? What if my house catches fire?? That's right, my family will have to wait, until a foreign companies freight trains pass on the tracks that separate the north and south sides of New Lenox. How long must they wait? 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes? By that time my house could have already burned to the ground, my kids would have been sitting in pain, or I hate to even think what other horrible scenarios could arise. The 40 million that CN is arrogantly throwing out there will not build new emergency services on the south side of New Lenox. Their money will also not cover the cost of repairing the EJ&E tracks, or building any under or over passes to help with the hellish traffic that is sure to arise in the communities affected. I am sure, I, the American tax payer will once again have to bear the burden of a foreign company. Read that last sentence again and think about how ridiculous that is!!!

And what kind of hazardous materials will be flying through my town 28 times per day? What are my children breathing in? What happens if there is a spill? Who is handling and paying for the clean up? CN? I doubt it. Also, traffic is bad enough as it is...now I have to even loose more time with my family by sitting waiting for 28 freight trains to pass.

Please, consider how many lives will be negatively affected by this acquisition. I moved to the "country" here in New Lenox because it is quiet. I work in Chicago every day. People who live there expect congestion, noise, polluted air, they know it is going to be a part of every day life. Keep the trains there!! Let the people who move out in the sticks for peace, quiet, and a SAFE environment continue to live that way!!

Your EIS does NOT take into account how badly New Lenox and the surrounding communities will be affected. Thank you for your time, I hope the STB does the right thing for New Lenox, "The Home of Proud Americans" and our surrounding communities.

Respectfully submitted,

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