

September 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

I am writing regarding the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railway by the Canadian National Railway and welcome the opportunity for my voice to be heard.

First, let me say that I am a strong supporter of our rail system and for that matter, all public transportation. But I am also a strong supporter of the American middle class, of our communities and am wary of corporations whose financial success is built on their ability to "rape and pillage", whether they are American corporations or foreign based. Today's financial market is a timely example.

My greatest concern is that the company uses it's own resources to accommodate the communities it passes through, building overpasses where possible, trenches, etc. I grew up in a town south of Chicago, Riverdale, surrounded by trains and know well the effect of trying to go about your day, timing your life to the schedule of the trains. My 85 year old parents still live there and still try to get to the store or library or Dr. to the time table of the container yard. In 50 years we have to have improved methods of co-existing with the railroads. Our Northwest suburbs, with their numerous bus/ pedestrian accidents have been a Petri dish of what needs to be changed.

In my own town, we are effectively split in half by the rail line and too many emergencies would have a bad outcome if at least our main streets were not able to go over or under the train. And because the town was built up along this line when it was used in a different manner, homes were built along it that would now be subjected to a much heavier volume of traffic. A problem because of the inevitable noise and air pollution and for safety issues that would be created with increased use.

I'm not expecting "other" community's backyards to bear the weight of our commerce, but I am asking that the corporations pay for the use of our streets, our environment and our safety by bringing their financial resources into the equation and address these issues before an agreement is finalized.

Sincerely,
Mary Liberty
19831 Woodside Dr.
New Lenox, IL. 60451