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Submitted By:

Name Bob Vitas
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To: Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket NO. 35087

I am writing to urge you to reject the Canadian National acquisition of the EJ&E line in the Chicago area. If the sale is approved, as many as 20 trains could pass through this area every day. There are many problems that this sale would cause for our area and few benefits.

My reason for urging this action is (check one or more):

☒ **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** The impact of this transaction will dramatically increase noise, increase smog from standing cars waiting for the train to pass, and increase particulate matter from dust raised by the passing trains. The full extent of the environmental impact, especially to the number of sensitive forest preserves they will pass through, has not been adequately studied.

☒ **IMPACT ON BUSINESS:** The traffic congestion caused by the higher volume of trains would make it harder for people to reach area businesses and would cause economic hardship for the area.

☒ **SAFETY ISSUE:** Emergency vehicles could be blocked by trains preventing them from reaching victims or fires in a timely manner, resulting in unnecessary deaths.

☒ **BUSINESSES LOCKED OUT OF TRAINS:** Local businesses will be prohibited from transporting materials on these rails.

☒ **SAFETY ISSUE:** More trains means more danger at crossings for local residents. Accidents are expected to at least double in our area.

☒ **COST TO TAXPAYERS:** Canadian National is pledging only \$40 million to build underpasses at critical crossings. It expects American taxpayers to fund the rest. This is not fair to Illinois residents.

☒ **OTHER:** The State of Illinois has no financial capacity to support the CREATE PROGRAM TO ASSIST in mitigation costs!

Sincerely,

