

September 22, 2008

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 Frankfort, IL, and I am formally **opposing** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad because of grave safety concerns.

I have just finished wading through the DEIS and also the May 2008 Report of the Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities on Rail Safety in Canada. This was a report to the House of Commons of Canada.

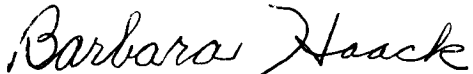
The report stated that the Committee had "serious concerns regarding both the delays and the manner in which the SMS (Safety Management Systems) has been implemented by the railways and the government". The railroads say it is difficult to create a "safety culture"; that this requires time and patience. To this, the Advisory Panel replied that it has been seven years since the railroads have been required to implement the plan and that the CN is at a level 1 or 2 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. The Advisory Panel states that this is "clearly not acceptable".

This, in addition to the "culture of fear" employees work under in reporting safety violations, should be gigantic red flags in showing how the CN deals with safety issues. The CN just ignores them or intimidates its employees into "sweeping them under the rug".

I also read the DEIS, detailing the Applicants' Voluntary Mitigation Measures stating all the safety measures the CN would take to insure the safety of everyone. To this, my reply is "ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS". They didn't do it in their home country. Why would they do it here?

Please keep this in mind when making your decision on this issue. The safety of our citizens is of utmost importance when considering this acquisition.

Sincerely,


Barbara Haack