



TOWNSHIP OF LYONS

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September 30, 2008  
Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball  
Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC. 20423

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement on *Canadian National Railway Co., et  
Al.-Control-EJ&E West Company*, STB Finance Docket No, 35087

Dear Ms. Ball:

Much has been said of the proposed CN purchase of the EJ&E rail line. In many respects, this discussion has been one-sided and doesn't convey the big picture.

The CN purchase of the EJ&E would reduce congestion not just within Chicago, but within many suburban communities- as many as 60 in total. Beyond the economic benefit for the City of Chicago, Lyons Township will benefit through reduced road congestion, allowing local commerce to move more freely and quickly. It will also result in fewer train accidents for the entire region, and more significantly for the inner arc communities who have shouldered the freight rail traffic for too long.

Canadian National is offering a balanced solution that invests its own private dollars in infrastructure that benefits the public. While state and local governments and the railroad industry have partnered together to address rail congestion through CREATE, the program mainly depends on public funds and remains underfunded. Knowing this, it's easy to see how CN's transaction benefits the public good more than merely private interests.

The economy and environmental benefits associated with CN's acquisition of the EJ&E are numerous. The Surface Transportation Board should recognize this and approve the deal. Because of the significant benefits, I can only hope that the Surface Transportation Board will take into account how Lyons Township and its more than 100,000 residents would benefit as a result of this transaction. We only wish you would have held public meetings in our area so you could have heard first hand from the residents who will see the benefit.

Sincerely,

Pat Rogers  
Lyons Township Supervisor