

**RIVERSIDE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE/RESCUE**

September 19, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As Fire Chief of the Village of Riverside Fire Department, I am writing to detail the positive impact of reducing freight traffic on the lives and safety of the residents of our community.

As a result of the freight traffic, the Village of Riverside must reroute our first responders or rely upon neighboring communities to respond to emergency calls. When seconds and minutes matter, blocked grade crossings can compromise our ability to save lives.

In addition, fewer freight trains mean less noise and congestion in our community and fewer opportunities for our children to find their way onto busy rail lines.

I urge you to consider the improved safety on the residents of the communities that will see fewer freight trains and approve the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Mulligan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "M".

Kevin Mulligan
Fire Chief
Village of Riverside