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September 29 2008

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

Subject: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) deny Canadian National Railway Company's (CN) proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E).

I am very concerned about this proposal for the following reasons:

- The CN proposal has mislead the public into thinking that the proposal, while detrimental to the communities along the EJ&E, would be good for the communities located in the Chicago Hub. In reality, traffic congestion throughout the Greater Chicago area will be worse than it is today!
- The Draft EIS is full of inaccuracies. The Draft EIS should be completely re-worked before any further consideration is given to this proposal.
- Additional rail traffic increases the potential of an accident that could involve hazardous materials.
- If the EJ&E Line is sold to CN, then the prospect of adding a commuter light rail line (the STAR Line) will be scuttled.
- Existing air and noise pollution problems will be exacerbated all along the EJ&E Line.
- Canadian National Railroad Company is a very profitable Canadian business. CN should be responsible for 100% of the mitigation requirements identified by the communities located along the EJ&E Line.

The impact of all of these issues will be devastating to property values for many homeowners in Plainfield, as well as other communities all along the EJ&E Line. This will occur at a time when the area is being hit hard by other economic factors. The end result will be a financial catastrophe for many businesses and residents affected by this proposal!

I respectfully ask that you assert your influence to prevent the CN purchase of the EJ&E Line.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Very respectfully,



Doug Martin