

September 22, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my concerns with regard to the CN acquisition of the EJ&E railroad. I live in Auburn Lakes in Plainfield, Illinois, a quarter mile from the train tracks. Aside from the obvious disruptions and concerns:

1. Constant delays getting from one side of the tracks to the other. Plainfield has many grade crossings that are located within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of each other. With trains up to 10,000 feet in length, this would literally cut-off one half of town from the other. Getting to work will become even more stressful than it is now.
2. Words cannot express the concerns for safety issues as they relate to the numerous grade crossings for which you should be very familiar.
3. Pollution, both environmental and noise would also cause great stress in the affected areas.
4. Other proposed uses for the EJ&E railroad line, including the STAR line, which would help people to commute to work, and in turn help alleviate congestion on the roads will be jeopardized or eliminated.

When I use the word stress, I mean that I am convinced that the acquisition by CN will drastically decrease the quality of life for the communities affected by this acquisition. I do not think it is a reasonable expectation for quality of life for citizens of the affected communities to decrease because a railroad wants to eliminate a little congestion in getting their trains to their destinations.

What concerns me most is the unwillingness of CN to cooperate with the affected communities in mitigating the effects of this acquisition. They are unwilling to reduce train lengths, the number of trains to cross through our communities each day or the necessary funding to create a safe crossing for school buses and emergency vehicles. Little help to mitigate the noise pollution by offering funds for noise obstruction fences or any other means to help with

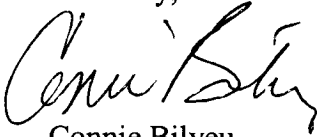
this matter. The people of these communities will be faced with every increasing taxes to pay for these items.

CN's argument is that it will make things easier for them (and obviously, they will make more money). The very thing CN is trying to eliminate by purchasing this line is one of the strongest arguments for the community against it—congestion and how that impacts us. They do not care about the communities or the people living within those communities. If you agree in totality with this acquisition, then STB will have expressed no concern for the community or its people either.

I hope you are giving serious consideration to all of these issues before just tossing this letter. Those who have the time to write are expressing the concerns of all the people in our communities. Our concerns are genuine and STB should show respect and compassion to the people of these affected communities before they jump to a decision that would only benefit CN and CN only.

I welcome a response from anyone within your group.

Sincerely,



Connie Bilyeu
11735 Glenn Circle
Plainfield, IL 60585

cc: Tom Cross,
House Republican Leader