

Johnson-Belle

February 11, 2008

Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Canadian National Railway acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern  
Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Statement  
Docket No. 35087

Gentlemen:

I would like to speak to my concerns with the proposed acquisition. First a little about myself: I am a professional civil engineer working as a consultant for many transportation projects. I am also a commissioner on the New Lenox Planning Commission, residing in the County Creek Subdivision, and I have attended the public hearing held in Joliet recently.

My main concern is the movement of traffic in the area as a result of increasing the number of trains by a multiple of four and the increased length of trains. The Village of New Lenox currently has three very active railroads which have a severe impact on vehicular traffic, especially at rush hour when Metra trains run about ten minutes apart.

This is a fast growing area of Will County and New Lenox is expected to quadruple in population in the next twenty years. If we are experiencing long delays now, imagine what it will be like in the next few years if the CNRR purchase is approved.

My residence, being separated from the heart of town and high schools by the EJ&E track presents many scheduling challenges, which will only increase four-fold. The thought of the increased vehicle emissions while waiting for trains to pass is disturbing. In our area, double tracking is proposed which can only double the delays while staging takes place.

I therefore stand opposed to the sale and would hope that the CNRR realizes it would be better served by Project CREATE and would rise to support its mission.

Truly yours,

Gerald "Gary" R. Berner, P.E.  
1606 Briarcrest Lane  
New Lenox, IL 60451

Surface Transportation Board  
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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