

Memo

To: Surface Transportation Board
From: Marc and Dawn Steinman
CC:
Date: 1/15/2008
Re: CN acquisition of EJ&E rail lines

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

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We would like to present the following concerns as they relate to the proposed acquisition:

1. Rail lines were not built with the intent, or using standards, that support the proposed freight traffic. Overlooking these issues present these numerous ramifications on local communities and their constituents, including:
 - a. Potential traffic and safety nightmares due to lack of appropriate grade separation and infrastructure.
 - b. Devaluation of property due to inadequate separation of tracks from actual homes and other structures.
 - c. Loss of quality of life due to potential noise due to inadequate separation of tracks from homes. This will have a direct effect on individuals' sleep patterns and possibly affect an individual's ability to perform his/her job effectively or a child's ability to achieve ultimate capability in school.
 - d. Losses of tax revenue to local communities as homes are devalued creating an even bigger problem of dealing with the lack of infrastructure as it relates to this issue.
2. CN has a history of violating regulations that affect Canadian citizens with what appears very little regard. Their position on safety and other concerns is certainly of major concern to those of us inside the US and outside their home country.

We do understand that there may truly be a logistics problem in getting freight in and out of the Chicago area, but feel the STB should be looking to force a more thorough and comprehensive plan in achieving that goal than simply letting CN improve their profitability at their lowest cost, but at an exorbitant cost to an extremely high number of communities and taxpayers. This acquisition should be denied and the appropriate monies invested in a modern rail line that provides the appropriate solution that circumvents the aforementioned concerns.

