

1734 N. Jay Street
Griffith, IN 46319

December 10, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Surface Board Chairwoman Johnson-Ball:

THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH WILL BE CUT IN HALF WHEN THE CANADIAN RAILROAD RUNS ALL THESE TRAINS ACROSS BROAD STREET. PEOPLE WILL BE CUT OFF FROM SCHOOLS, WORK, ETC. 25,000 cars per day drive down Broad Street.

People who live near the tracks mentioned that all year long the Canadian Railroad diesel trains sometimes sit for up to 3 to 4 hours at a time waiting for their signals. The diesel fuel's smell is going into their homes through their windows, etc. (during the nice weather). If the Canadian Railroad does buy the EJ&E Railroad, the pollution would even be greater.

There are no advantages for us. Sure it's train transportation, but we will have more pollution, more chances of toxic spills, more delays, etc. The **same trains** will be going **East & West** and **North & South**. (Switching at the Kirkyard near the steel mills.) The big trains will cross over these tracks 2 times. If there are 18 trains then they will cross 36 times. **THIS IS ALL ABOUT CUTTING TIME FOR THE CANADIAN RAILROAD.** They will make more money. **NO ADVANTAGES FOR GRIFFITH** or our other communities. Also the trains will go over **BROADWAY** in **MERRILLVILLE**. This is a very busy area, too, due to Route 30.

The EJ & E Railroad is the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad. This **ILLINOIS** railroad will then **BYPASS THE ILLINOIS CITIES & VILLAGES** and **GO THROUGH INDIANA**. Since it is not an **INDIANA RAILROAD**, it's one more good reason why **INDIANA WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THIS SALE**. Indiana has enough pollution from steel mills and oil refineries, etc. **WE NEED NO MORE POLLUTION, BACKED UP TRAFFIC WHICH CAUSES MORE AIR POLLUTION, ETC.**

The Canadian RR has said that the train tracks going over Main St. in Griffith, tracks on 45th in Highland, tracks on White Oak in Munster, etc. will have less train traffic. **BUT THIS IS ONLY GUARANTEED FOR 3 YEARS.** After that these areas **MAY BE AFFECTED MORE**. Also, because of people changing their car routes, Ridge Road, Indianapolis Blvd. (41) and many other streets will have more increased traffic.

Please do not allow this **FOREIGN COMPANY** (Canadian National) to make more money in the United States when **WE THE PEOPLE**, will not benefit. There is enough cancer causing elements in the Lake County area. **WE HAVE TO GET OUR CARS TESTED FOR EMISSIONS and COMPLY. DO THE TRAINS HAVE TO COMPLY WITH ANY ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY ON ALL THEIR DIESEL POLLUTION?** Please **VOTE AGAINST** this takeover by the Canadian National Railroad.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Katheryn A. Kepchar

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