

9/24/08

Ms. Johnson-Ball,

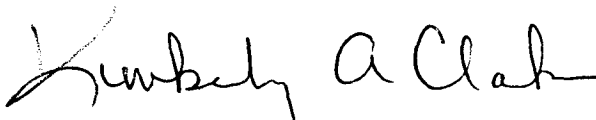
I am writing to you asking that the STB reject Canadian National Railway's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railway. This proposed acquisition would increase the number of trains from six to twenty-eight per day. This would essentially divide the town of New Lenox in half. The residents south of the tracks will only have one firehouse available to them. As my husband, a fire fighter can attest in the case of a fire or a major motor vehicle accident, multiple squads are required. If police and fire departments have to wait for trains, which will add up to at least one more per hour, the results may be tragic. As a nurse, I've seen people who could have been saved if they had received immediate medical care.

Another point I'd like to make is the train tracks run next to one of our school campuses which includes a kindergarten and first through six grade elementary school. If a hazardous material spill should occur how would we evacuate hundreds of children? Once again, the school is south of the tracks and all the hospitals as well as the majority of parents are on the north side. This scenario is a real possibility due to CN's poor safety record. If the potential of physical harm to our residents is not enough to persuade you to vote against this proposal, I would like to discuss the financial aspect.

In light of our country's current financial crisis, can we as taxpayers afford to subsidize an exceptionally profitable foreign railroad, whose profits as of last year totaled more than two billion dollars? If the CN wishes to purchase the EJ&E they should be required to pay for the overpasses and underpasses. Why as an American government agency, would you agree to let us taxpayers subsidize a foreign company?

In conclusion, I am begging this board to reject CN bid to purchase EJ&E railway. I believe in the long run they will find more appropriate solutions to Chicago's rail congestion problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimberly A. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kimberly" being more prominent and the last name "Clark" following in a similar style.

Kimberly Clark, RN