

September 9, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

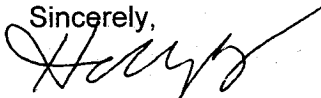
I would like to express my concern over the potential purchase of the EJ&E tracks by Canadian National. If allowed to proceed, this purchase will bring drastically increased freight train traffic to a very congested and growing suburban area. I live in Aurora, the second largest city in Illinois and the heart of the tracks in question. The tracks border the city of Naperville, the fourth largest city in the state. They also divide the school district (204) shared between the two towns. Increased train traffic on the tracks will seriously delay school buses and make it difficult to get students to classes on time. In addition, we are in the process of building a sorely needed third high school on property that borders the tracks. The constant passing of long, noisy freight trains will degrade our children's education and pose an increased safety risk.

Traffic in our area is already very difficult to manage and getting worse as we grow. The EJ&E tracks are on our daily path no matter where we want to go. We have to cross them to get to the tollway, to the shopping mall and to the commuter train station. In fact, when I started a new job downtown a couple of years ago, I was late for my first day because I got stuck by a long, slow freight train on the way to the train station! I can't imagine how bad it will be when there are 4-5 times as many trains on this route.

We will clearly need to build under or over passes to accommodate additional train traffic if the sale is approved. Where is the money for this to come from? We are already struggling to pay our property taxes that continue to increase each year. If Canadian National is benefiting from this purchase, they should pay for any improvements that are needed. I understand that there would be reductions in the number of trains in the city of Chicago and near suburbs, but that the reductions will not equal the increase in our area. Clearly, CN is planning to simply push more trains through the area without regard for the consequences. I'm sure the existing tracks they are using will eventually see traffic go up as well, and no one will ultimately benefit from this purchase except CN.

Please do the right thing for those of us who would have to live with the daily problems of increased train traffic and deny the sale to Canadian National. If you feel that it must be approved, please at least force them to pay for grade crossing improvements to help us deal with the traffic.

Sincerely,



Holly Scholz
1568 Palomino Dr.
Aurora, IL 60502