

03350.012508. FLAHERTY. PCT2. 61938. O.N. •

Johnson - Ball

**Sara B. Flaherty
58 Wabash Avenue
Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

January 25, 2008

Charles D. Nottingham
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Nottingham,

Fast and dependable train service is important to me, my community and our country. It will become even more important as gasoline prices continue to increase.

The application submitted by the Canadian National does not adequately address the future of the passenger trains linking Chicago to Champaign, Mattoon, Carbondale, Memphis, New Orleans and 17 other cities.

These trains could experience longer travel times and increased delays as a result of this transaction. The cities along the route will be negatively impacted if the service quality deteriorates on this route. Also, since passengers connect between these trains and other trains at Chicago, deteriorated service on this corridor will impact passenger trains serving the entire country.

With ridership up 67% on this corridor since Illinois added a third daily train, now is not the time to disrupt service. We should do everything possible to encourage increased usage of public transportation in this nation, not make it more difficult for citizens to use the service!

Therefore, I request that the Surface Transportation Board make the establishment of a new route, of like or better quality, a condition of the merger. Building a new connection at Grand Crossing, combined with enhancements to the Norfolk Southern track into Union Station, is the only viable solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Very respectfully yours,

Sara B. Flaherty
Sara B. Flaherty

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

Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

File No. _____

Scanned (initial): _____

ST&ECT #: _____

Cc: Original - Job File

Other Submissions

In order to process your filing, please fill out the following information. If you do not know the docket number, please leave it blank and we will fill it out for you.

Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #:	FD	-35087	- -
Subject: *	Canadian National/EJE merger		
First Name: *	Sara		
Middle Name:			
Last Name: *	Flaherty		
Address: *	58 Wabash Ave		
City: *	Mattoon		
State: *	IL		
Zip Code: *	61938-		
Email Address: *	flairtee@consolidated.net		
Group/Affiliation:			
Message:			