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January 27, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing, STB
Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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Dear Ms Johnson-Ball:

Last month I was coming home from a doctor's appointment when I was stopped by an EJ&E freight train crossing Mills Road, heading south. Several cars ahead of me must have been waiting for a long time, since they finally turned around and drove back west. As the train was extremely long and moving at a snail's pace, I sat there another twenty minutes.

Now the Canadian National Railway wants to more than triple the number of trains through the whole EJ&E area, forcing people to drive miles out of their way or cutting them off from schools or emergency services. (One of my daughters is a paramedic for the Plainfield Ambulance Department, and she could tell you what their problems would be.) If all the trains whizzed across the crossing as the passenger trains do, the increase would be troublesome enough, but it seems that many crossings would be closed more than they would be open!

To visit my doctor, I drive half a block south to Mills Road, take it west to South Chicago Street, then go south a mile or two to Primary Care. However, if increased train traffic made that

route unfeasible, I would have to go north to Interstate 80, take it west to South Chicago Street, then south to Primary Care. This would add to the I80 traffic (which is worsening every day) while wasting my time and precious gasoline.

This just describes one trip by one retired old lady. Multiply it by the tens of thousands of people trying to reach jobs or schools or emergency services throughout the entire affected area. And do you have a method for estimating the amount of gasoline that would be wasted, either by waiting at crossings or having to drive extra miles each day?

Certainly the owners of this Canadian company have their reasons for wanting to move train traffic out of the Chicago area into ours, but they do not understand what it will do to our everyday lives. Of course, I do not believe they care. And, unfortunately, "money talks," so I am probably wasting my time writing this letter.

Thank you for listening.

Phyllis Roa

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Phyllis Roa', written in dark ink.

1104 Davison Street

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