

September 14, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Johnson-Ball:

I wish to encourage the STB to deny Canadian National's acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. My comments are based on the many public comments I've heard area residents make at the various STB hearings in the Illinois areas affected by the potential acquisition and my listening to the entire Committee hearing on H.R. 6707.

As a U.S. citizen, I believe the impact of such transactions should take into *balanced* consideration the environmental and safety impacts on the communities and natural environments through which the rail traffic would increase and decrease. In doing this, the *long-term* impacts (rail volume, implications of hazardous materials spills, homeland security) should be considered...not just the short-term, self-serving projections of the rail companies.

As a U.S. citizen, I see this acquisition as an attempt by China and CN to increase their own profits on the backs of U.S. citizens and communities. The purchase of the EJ&E is, for them, an inexpensive way to bolster their profits and have U.S. citizens and municipalities pay the *significant* majority cost of the transaction. I do not wish my hard earned money to go toward this rail purchase...nor should the U.S. government (which you represent) allow that to happen. Increased taxes, etc. cannot be supported, especially in these economic times.

Simply shifting traffic volume and environmental/safety issues from one suburb to another is not a reasonable, justifiable, and honorable fix to the rail congestion around Chicago. U.S. commerce and citizenry deserve a more thoughtful and planned alternative that puts the long-term environmental and safety issues first before the economic interests of foreign entities and Walmart-type businesses. Shifting problems simply takes the whole Chicago area to the lowest, quick fix common denominator rather than developing a good regional solution to the rail congestion.

I believe the U.S. economy will be better served in the long-term by the denial of this acquisition. A denial will be the resulting impetus for a U.S.-led initiative to develop a more comprehensive rail plan for the Chicago area and our country.

It seems to me that narrow, primarily foreign interests are behind this acquisition and the U.S. public's interests are not being served. Of what purpose is our government if not to serve *our* citizenry?

CN's acquisition of the EJ&E will fundamentally and permanently change for the worse our communities and our Chicago area. Our communities, including the Chicago area, are not capable of supporting a NAFTA-super railway.

The STB is in the driver's seat on these issues. Please exercise your authority under NEPA to deny this acquisition. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Teri L. Bridge