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January 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street SW
 Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087 - Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation – Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

My concerns over CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago include the following:

- Land Use - Along the entire length of the alignment, schools, libraries, farmland, hospitals and recreational areas are used by residents crossing the tracks to get to and from these activity centers. The double tracking and frequent train activity would essentially introduce permanent features that would disrupt, divide, or isolate existing neighborhoods, communities, and land uses.
- Noise and Vibration – There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville.
- Traffic – In the Aurora / South Naperville / Plainfield area the delays caused by the freight trains will have a detrimental impact on land uses, the ability to transport students to and from school in a safe and timely fashion, and the ability for emergency response vehicles to cross tracks quickly.
- Visual Impacts – new visual elements will be introduced including additional freight vehicles as well as sound and retaining walls.
- Air quality – For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day, indeed, the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality in a nonattainment area.

I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition; I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,


 GARY T. VLK VLK

cc: Anne K. Quinlan, Esq., Acting Secretary

FDR