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1212 Rodgers Lane
Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047

August 22, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing you as a 20-year resident of Lake Zurich, Illinois. I am against the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Company (EJ & E), which operates a rail line running through our town, by Canadian National (CN).

Rail traffic plans proposed by CN indicate that the current EJ & E daily average of 5.3 freight trains will increase to 20.3 freight trains per day as a result of CN's acquisition of the EJ & E. That is more than a 280% increase in rail traffic going through the developed and populated areas of Lake Zurich. This will bring a host of environmental and public safety issues to an area not equipped to handle them.

A particularly concerning example is evidenced by the fact that School District 95 busses pass through railroad grade crossings 233 times per day. The delay caused by increased rail traffic will dramatically impact transportation of students within the school district and the added number of trains will increase the potential for a train-school bus conflict. In addition, two schools abut the existing railroad tracks, and I have seen a number of students crossing the tracks while walking to school.

On behalf of my family and neighbors, I urge you to reject the proposed transaction, in the interest of protecting and maintaining the safety and quality of life in the villages of Lake Zurich, Hawthorn Woods, Barrington and surrounding area.

Respectfully,



Kenneth R. Weigand

cc: The Honorable Melissa Bean, U.S. Representative (8th Congressional District)
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, United States Senator
The Honorable Barack O'Bama, United States Senator