

September 12, 2008

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

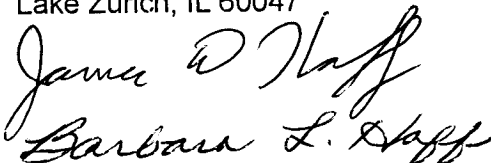
Re: CNRR Acquisition of EJ&E RR – STB Finance Docket 35087

Dear Ms Johnson-Ball:

We both oppose the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Rail Road by the Canadian National Rail Road for the following reasons:

- We both commute to work and must cross the EJ&E tracks twice each work day. Our commute times are already one hour each. Additional trains on these tracks will increase our commute times further.
- All emergency vehicles and hospitals are on the opposite side of the EJ&E tracks from our residence. Additional trains will increase response time during emergencies.
- Lake Zurich just obtained a "No Whistle Zone" for the existing EJ&E train traffic. Additional trains will jeopardize our quiet zone.
- Lake Zurich is currently revitalizing the downtown area. One developer recently withdrew a proposed nursing home due to the possibility of increased train traffic. This was a \$22 million project, and Lake Zurich lost this tax revenue, even before the first extra train rolled on the EJ&E tracks.
- We understand proposed trains will be longer than existing trains. Current trains can take 5-10 minutes to clear crossings. Longer and more frequent trains will create severe delays at the four major at-grade crossings in Lake Zurich, which will all be blocked simultaneously by 10,000 feet long trains.
- We understand the existing tracks must be upgraded to accommodate the heavier train traffic. We also understand that CNRR does not intend to pay for the track upgrades. Our property taxes increased 19% last year. Local home owners should not have to pay for increased train traffic too.
- While we do not have children, we understand local school busses cross the EJ&E tracks 200 times each school day. Longer and more frequent trains will create severe delays and disrupt parent/children schedules.
- We understand CNRR plans to transport hazardous cargo, and we are not convinced CNRR will upgrade tracks and crossings appropriately. We have already been evacuated once for a hazardous cargo spill. Longer and more frequent trains will create even more risk with no apparent benefit.
- The Western suburbs would benefit from improved commuter rail service, and the EJ&E tracks are the likely answer. The CNRR acquisition jeopardizes the STAR Line, a proposed commuter rail service for Lake Zurich and neighboring communities.

James D and Barbara L Haff
477 Newberry Court
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Handwritten signatures of James D Haff and Barbara L Haff in cursive script.