

16024

BERYL IBBOTSON
8 LAGOON DRIVE
HAWTHORN WOODS, IL 60047

18 SEPTEMBER, 2008

PHILLIS JOHNSON-BALL
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball,

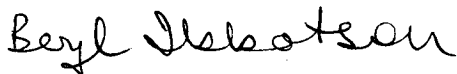
I am very much in favour of CN's plans to buy the EJE Railway line to transport freight around Chicago. It is important to me to transport goods in an economical manner, using one freight train instead of 600 - 800 road trucks. I believe it also to be more ecologically friendly - less fuel used, no engines running all over the country at rest stops during breaks, etc.

Trains are much safer than trucks on the roads. Last January, 2008 was a very severe winter in Chicago and the number of trucks which skidded off roads was frightening, putting passenger cars in very great danger. Trains on tracks in the same weather conditions would have been a huge improvement to humanity, the economy and the environment!

Now, on a negative side, there would be problems if trains increasingly stop traffic - at rush hour, for school buses to keep schedules, for emergency vehicles to respond wherever necessary, etc. Measures need to be taken at several "problem" crossings, using under / over passes, etc. However, villages like Barrington have been deadlocked for years and should not be allowed to hold CN to ransom but rather share the cost of creating detours to fix their problems.

Also, a few members of the public need to be educated at stopping at a train crossing when red lights are flashing as they would for a red traffic light on the street. Maybe, the media could be educated to report a disaster on the rails as "Truck blocks train on railroad crossing" instead of the usual "Train crashes into truck on rail crossing".

Good luck to CN and may sense prevail.



Beryl Ibbotson.