

August 26, 2008

12305

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to express my grave concern over the CN Rail acquisition of E.J. & E. Railroad. The impact of this acquisition on my community adversely affects emergency response, noise, traffic congestion, hazardous material exposure and economic growth.

My community has already lost proposed business expansion due to this pending merger. CN's mitigation efforts do not come close to solving traffic congestion, necessary crossing-grade improvements, hazardous material support and training or safety near schools and neighborhoods close to the tracks.

I am also concerned that CN has used tactics to circumvent processes and procedures in place to assure that the voice of communities like mine are being heard. Recently, CN CEO, Hunter Harrison indicated that the purchase contract with E.J. & E. would expire at the end of this year if the sale is not completed. This statement was used to force this acquisition before a full process of review and mitigation could be completed. It is now being exposed that these statements falsely reflect the facts that CN's current contract has numerous provisions for extension.

How can we have confidence that CN will be the "good neighbor" once the acquisition has been approved when I now have concerns that any negotiations are not in good faith.

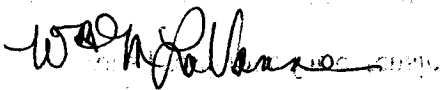
I support H.R. 6707, that the STB cannot approve acquisitions such as this one if the impact on the communities outweighs the transportation benefits.

I expect the integrity of the process to not be circumvented by approving the acquisition before the overall impact can be considered and mitigation addressed fully.

At this point in time, the STB should not approved this acquisition nor be force to compromise. The future of my community is at stake, we need our voice to be heard and defended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



William M. LaVanne
590 Waterford Drive
Lake Zurich, IL 60047