

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

August 14, 2008

Re: STB Finance Doc. No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

This letter comments on STB actions with regard to the sale of EJ&E Lines to Canadian National. The nation overall can expect some positive impact from improved efficiency for rail transport as we strive to reduce oil consumption, and Canadian National will profit handsomely. On the other hand, here in Northwest Indiana, we can expect up to three times more rail traffic generally. In some Chicago suburbs, the impact on street traffic from delays at rail crossings may prove drastic.

In the early days of rail expansion, local communities were expected to pay for infrastructure to support rail service, because new rail service to a community was typically a great boon. Today, however, the benefits of the sale of EJ&E Lines will be national. It will serve to bypass a bottleneck in Chicago rail traffic. But, Chicago suburbs eastward to Gary, IN, will face real setbacks. The increased street traffic delays will effectively split some communities.

- I strongly recommend that the public comment period be extended.
- I strongly recommend that the terms of the sale be adjusted so that Canadian National pays to mitigate the effects of its street traffic congestion here in the American Midwest. CN should pay to build overpasses or underpasses where greatly increased rail traffic would split communities. In this recession, some construction jobs funded by Canadian National would be welcome.

Sincerely,



Don Briggs

220 Cedargate Court
 Michigan City, IN 46350
 219.324.6117

cc: Sen. Richard Lugar, US Senate
 Sen. Evan Bayh, US Senate
 Rep. Joe Donnelly, US Congress

Sen. Richard Durbin, US Senate
 Sen. Barack Obama, US Senate
 Rep. Pete Visclosky, US Congress
 Gov. Mitch Daniels. State of Indiana