

August 29, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing in opposition to the CN Railroad acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. I live in the town of Barrington where the train tracks cross in four major areas surrounding our town. The acquisition will have such negative consequences on our community that I am not sure there will even be a Barrington in the future. I don't think this is a far reaching or alarmist attitude.

The people of Barrington currently live with trains. However, the quantity of trains and the length of trains proposed will totally gridlock Barrington. CN does not have any positive track record on safety and dealing with the communities it travels through.

Has a simulation been done in our town to see what happens when you run multiple two mile trains through? If not, why not? I have already heard of businesses deciding to locate elsewhere and know of at least two that have left directly because of the pending train line acquisition. Who wants to move into a town where there is a potential of hundreds of trains (Phase 2 of the double track planned) that will endanger their children and ruin their quality of life? The thought of our only water supply being tainted by a toxic spill is a scary thought and CN has stated the danger exists.

CN Railroad already has a route to move their trains. Why change this route and ruin the economies, safety and quality of life of additional towns?

I believe that as an American citizen, we have the right to expect our legislators and officials to protect our interests. CN has powerful lobbyists and has not been fair or honest in this process. They have not been willing to be realistic or honest in dealing with mitigation factors. The mitigation should be COMPLETE before ANY trains are allowed to come through. Otherwise, what good is an assurance? And, the amount of mitigation suggested is truly laughable. I ask any CN official to come buy a home and live in Barrington under the proposed circumstances. Would they want their families, their children here?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Kukowski
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Barrington, IL 60010