

12336



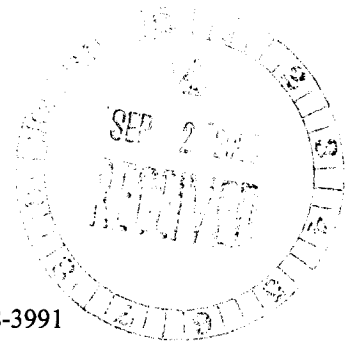
**McHenry County
County Board**

2200 N. Seminary Avenue

Woodstock, IL 60098

Phone 815-334-4221 Fax 815-338-3991

www.co.mchenry.il.us/



August 18th, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket #35087

Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ&E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

The McHenry County Board and the citizens of McHenry County, Illinois are concerned with the current draft of the environmental impact statement, released August 1st, 2008 by the Surface Transportation Board (STB), for the Canadian National purchase of the EJ&E Railroad line. The current draft of the environmental impact statement does not address potential problems including public safety and traffic congestion, issues facing local communities along the railroad.

The EJ&E tracks in Frankfort, IL, for example, have not received major repairs in the last 25 years. Canadian National is proposing to increase traffic along that line by over 400%. At high levels of speeds, the increased rail traffic could be dangerous to the tracks, the trains, and the community surrounding the rail line. The increased traffic could split communities in two and affect the transportation routes of citizens of a community needing to cross the tracks.

McHenry County urges the Surface Transportation Board to make certain the final draft of the environmental impact study takes into account the potentially negative impacts of the increase in rail traffic on traffic congestion, public safety, quality of life, environmental quality, and local economies.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ken Koehler", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth D. Koehler
McHenry County Board Chairman

CC: Congresswoman Melissa Bean
Congressman Donald Manzullo