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Russell J. Tarvid
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Frankfort, Illinois 60423
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August 26, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

There are innumerable reasons why the Surface Transportation Board should deny the proposed acquisition of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway (EJ&E) by Canadian National (CN). This letter is written to urge you to consider three very important economic reasons why this acquisition would have a profoundly negative effect on the economy of the Chicago Metropolitan area. Please give them serious consideration in the preparation of the final Environmental Impact Statement.

First, hundreds of thousands of people vital to the area's economy cross the current EJ&E tracks along its entire length every day. Employers are going to their businesses. Employees are going to their jobs. Goods are being transported to destinations far and wide. The economic health of the entire region is dependent on the efficient transportation of all these people and products. The dramatic increase of train traffic on the EJ&E will wreak utter havoc on the area. The delays these oversized trains will cause on traffic will be devastating to Chicago's economy. As stated above, literally hundreds of thousands of people who contribute to the area's economic health will be dramatically delayed every day.

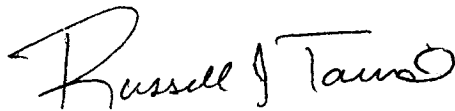
Second, the communities who think their train delays will decrease if the acquisition is approved are mistaken. Other carriers will increase their train traffic to take advantage of the CN trains that have been rerouted. Therefore, CN's claims that current routes will see a decrease in train delays is inaccurate. The delays will still be there, coupled with the dramatic new delays along the EJ&E line. This enormous multiplying of freight train traffic in the City of Chicago and many of its suburbs will have a horrible impact on the area's economic health.

Third, it cannot be ignored that thousands of homes along the EJ&E line will lose value. The negative effect this would have on the economy of the area is dramatic. Decreased property values will hurt homeowners, banks, other lending institutions, realtors and many others. Such a huge decrease in value in so many homes simultaneously would be unprecedented. This factor, combined with the two points above, would potentially hurt the regional and national economies in such a way, they may never recover.

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There are many other strong reasons why the CN acquisition is a terrible idea. Along with those reasons, please consider the three reasons stated above and reject the proposal. There is zero economic benefit to the area. There is a mountain of evidence the acquisition would have a devastating effect on the Chicagoland area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell J. Tarvid". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russell" and last name "Tarvid" clearly legible.

Russell J. Tarvid

cc: Mayor Jim Holland
Village of Frankfort

Eric Hirschhorn
Winston & Strawn