

September 19, 2008

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

REF: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

RE: Oppose Canadian National Railway purchase of E.J. & E. railway

Dear Ms Johnson-Ball:

I am a resident of Will County, Illinois, and am concerned with the Canadian's Attitude toward the purchase of the United States of America owned railway. To have the nerve to try to stick us residents with the cost of the improvements so their freight can crowd, overwhelm, and endanger my county. I say my county because my home is a part of Will County in which I pay one heck of a load of taxes to live there. But, I live here to let my children earn an education that by far is the best. I need your help to put a halt to this project for the following reasons:

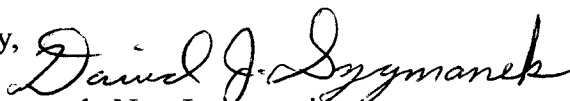
- Will County small but growing population of mixed farmland and united communities {Frankfort, Mokena, New Lenox, Manhattan, and Elwood} focused on keeping our children and property safe.
- The environmental impacts on this land would be detrimental to the wild life which is already disappearing or reappearing as road kill due to new residential and commercial developments
- Noise decibel levels would be horrendous due to the increase of trains. Not only would it interrupt social gathering, sleeping patterns {which could pose a threat to car drivers dosing because of increased disturbed sleep}, but also the nearby elementary schools, which are in about a 60-yard radius of my own kid's school. Noise inhibits studying and concentration in classrooms.
- Pollution levels would skyrocket and soot deposits would increase on buildings, cars, but also wildlife. Increased noise and pollution levels would have an adverse effect, causing disturbances in the mating cycles of key insects needed for the cross fertilization of crops, birds and other wildlife (flowers and blooming trees) would suffer dearly with the lack of insects for its survival, chaos would be evident.
- Traffic congestion due to the proposed two mile long trains would be dangerous for residents who want to just get home, or for those who need emergency help {heart attacks, spontaneous life threatening injuries, car accidents}.

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- Emergency help is a key issue. Why? Because of the following: Residents who live south of the existing low traffic tracks would suffer immediately due to the fact that Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet, is the main hospital facility for emergency care and is north of the tracks. Also, this primary hospital has been granted approval to move to New Lenox in order to expand its patient care with new technology similar to downtown Chicago hospitals. A key factor in an aging community. Its new location is even further north of the existing tracks posing major impacts to our emergency response times.
- Potential costs to the communities to alleviate the impacts of longer and more frequent slow moving trains. More cars in idle create more pollution.
- A fine example of this danger is the recent crash of two trains in L.A. Who would be responsible for a derailment of hazardous materials (sulfurs, radioactive isotopes, liquid oxygen, corrosive waste) due to text messaging, dosing off, lack of experience in Canadian employees, etc. Would the schools be supplied with counter active chemical spill treatment kits and/or gas masks? Would you feel safe? How about your kid(s)?
- **Taxes are at an all time high in Will County and, We, as a community cannot afford another increase. I do not want to lose my house due to increased taxes for me to afford to live in a community that I love dearly. They suggest that Will County be stuck with the cost of new switching stations, viaducts, and building materials needed to improve (their new railway purchase) and our nightmares to follow.**
- **Curfew. What if your teenager is stuck south of the tracks? If he or she times it right they can get passed the track before the train(s) block it. I guess that benefits them when it comes to making out. But what if your daughter is getting raped and has no 911 help to assist her? What if the response time is so slim that a burning house, business, or school for that matter is doomed without the fire, police, and rescue operations north of the track to save lives are hindered by a 2 mile train(s)? Who is responsible? Our Canadian brothers would wipe their hands clean of any cause for this to happen. And it could happen!!**

Ms Johnson-Ball do not let this happen to us. We need a safe place to live. Our freedom(s), like the ones we are currently fighting for in Iraq, will be taken from us. And the Canadian National Railroad will line their pockets with increased revenue at our costs. Don't let this happen, **Please!!!!** My children and their offspring thank you in advance.

Respectfully,



David J. Szymanek, New Lenox resident