

August 22, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

Once again I am sending a letter to the Surface Transportation Board in hope that someone has the guts to stand up for the ordinary taxpayer who pays YOUR salary. The only people who stand to benefit from the sale of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway is the Canadian National Railway in Canada, which stands to earn millions while making things horrible for all who live near this rail line.

There will be huge impacts in the communities that surround this railway let alone the environmental impact. The environmental impact alone is frightening. What guarantee of safety do we have from the chemicals and hazardous materials that will travel through residential communities?

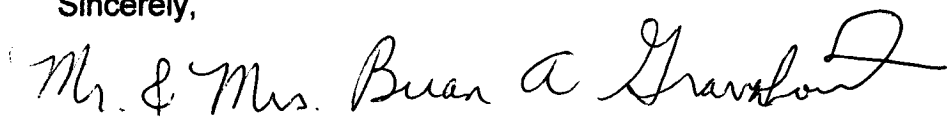
There are also three at-grade crossings in Aurora alone which will impede rescue vehicles, delay school buses, traffic, and add to this region's traffic congestion. Canadian National Railway refuses to address the issue of building overpasses, which would cost the community of Aurora alone over \$100 million. The only people who stand to make money on this deal are Canadian National and not the communities who surround this railway line. We only get screwed!

The last thing is the economics and how they will lower property values of the homes surrounding the railway line. When people built or purchased their homes, traffic on the line was minimal. There was little delay and not much noise. This would change very quickly without any input from local communities. As it is, both Canadian National Railway and our government are largely ignoring us hoping that we will fade away.

Why is Canada allowed to do this to us? A better use of this line would be to build the Star Line for commuter transportation. I would then be able to reach my job without having to drive my car, which would lead to a reduction of energy use and oil dependency on foreign nations. The sale of this line would bring the dream of the Star Line to a complete standstill because there wouldn't be room for a commuter line.

This sale is being rushed through to avoid looking at the problems it would cause in America. All it does is move the problem from one area to another without dealing with the issues at hand. Don't let the Canadian National Railway accelerate this deal without protecting the citizens of this country. My husband and I are against this purchase, and hope that our government will reconsider this deal before it is too late.

Sincerely,



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