

15178

234 West Otto Drive
New Lenox, IL 60451

September 21, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St. SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to the STB to voice my opposition to the pending purchase of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway by the Canadian National Railway. I have followed the proceeding of this purchase and do not believe that the sale of the EJ&E would be in the best interest of the citizens of those communities through which it passes. I can understand the desire of the Canadian National in improving service and transit times through the Chicago metropolitan area. However, I do not believe that they have given adequate consideration to the impact on the quality of life of the effected communities and its citizens.

I have been familiar with the EJ&E my entire life and I know that most of their crossings are at grade level. I have also experienced numerous delays along many of the other rail lines which cross the metropolitan area of Chicago and the delays can be horrific with little concern or interest on the part of the various railroads to fix or alleviate the delays. I expect that should this purchase be approved, the same problems will occur along the EJ&E main line. This will delay movement with in the area, delay emergency service and result in a degradation of the quality of life in the area.

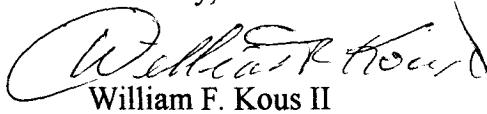
Secondly, the increased rail traffic as proposed by the Canadian National of up to 30 trains a day, many with hazardous cargo, is a disaster waiting to happen. With a few exceptions, the EJ&E main line crosses numerous heavily populated communities. An accident with in any of these communities would have devastating effect.

It is unfortunate that the Canadian National is solely concerned with its bottom line and could care less about how its operations will affect the general populace. It has been suggested that the Canadian National install over passes or under passes at all road crossing which they would only be required to pay 5% to 10% of the cost to install as based on the draft EIS which the STB suggest they pay. I do not believe that neither the local citizens nor the local governmental bodies should be expected to pay for these changes. If the sale of the EJ&E is approved, it should be with the condition that the Canadian National be required to pay the full cost of all improvements and changes to road crossings. The tax payers should not be burdened with this expense.

I do hope that the STB serves the people of Illinois and puts their interest first before the profits of a Canadian Corporation based in Montreal. This sale is bad for the people of Northern Illinois and if allowed to proceed will be a financial burden on the tax payers of Illinois and the United States.

I would strongly recommend that the STB deny the Canadian National's petition to purchase the Elgin Joliet & Eastern (EJ&E) Railway.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William F. Kous II".

William F. Kous II