



VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

1 VETERANS PARKWAY
NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS 60451

VILLAGE OFFICE 815.462.6400
FAX NUMBER 815.462.6449
BUILDING DEPT. FAX 815.462.6469

MAYOR
TIMOTHY BALDERMANN

ADMINISTRATOR
RUSS LOEBE

VILLAGE CLERK
MARCIA ENGLERT

TRUSTEES
ANNETTE BOWDEN
DAVID BUTTERFIELD
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DAVID SMITH
RAY TUMINELLO

September 11, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket 35087

As a trustee for the Village of New Lenox, I represent myself and all the residents opposing the CN Acquisition. New Lenox has always embraced the various rails that pass through our community. Even our village seal is that of a Locomotive. This seal was designed by a young student many years ago as a symbol of New Lenox. The trains have always been a part of our growing history. It is hard to imagine that CN trains may now become the striking sword, splitting us in half. With five AT GRADE crossings within a 4 mile stretch, the safety, security and quality of life of our community is at risk.

Silver Cross Hospital is currently building their new facility on the north side of town. CN trains would make it near impossible to reach the hospital during any emergency situation south of the tracks. If you had a child or grandchild being transported to Silver Cross, and lost that child because you were waiting on a train(s), I am sure you'll agree, putting as few trains as possible on at grade crossings, would be considered the only choice.

Village Station, a proposed trans-oriented development of 225 acres, 1000 residential units with an estimated population of 2500, is located less than ¼ mile of the EJ & E. That is just one of several large parcels of property with commercial and residential approval south of the tracks. We have hundreds of existing homes and a brand new high school proposed to open fall of 2009. They are also within ¼ mile. I am sure you will agree that is concerning. Please re-consider the implications that this is for the greater good of the transportation industry.

As a board member, resident, mother and grandmother, I know that this acquisition will leave our community of New Lenox, as well as many others, with an enormous safety and financial burden. It will negatively impact the quality of life and sense of security that we now have, which many residents specifically moved here for.

I respectfully urge you to look deeply at this acquisition and not compromise our ability to protect and serve our community. The value of our homes may be in jeopardy just by the economics of our country today. As a trustee, I cannot justify any reason to support the acquisition. Without appropriate funds or assurances, we cannot protect our community or maintain our quality of life.

Thank you.

Annette J. Bowden
Village Trustee



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