

08/18/2008

Ms. Victoria Ruston
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board

RE: Docket #35087

I am writing to voice my frustration at the STB and its decision to hold the CN/EJ&J meeting in West Aurora. The location of the West Aurora HS is roughly seven miles away from the EJ&J lines. While individuals traveling east to west and west to east will be negatively affected by this sale, those of us living closer to the line would feel a much greater impact in terms of increased noise, property value decreases, emergency responder delays, etc.

It appears to me that the STB purposely chose West Aurora HS in order to discourage attendance. It is sending the message that you are not concerned with those of us living along the EJ&J line and that you would rather try to reduce the attendance so you don't have to deal with us.

I also understand that CN wants the STB to approve the sale before the environmental study is completed. As a compromise, CN states that they would not run additional trains on the EJ&E line until after an environmental review is completed early next year. Quite frankly, I don't believe them. Once the sale is final we have no recourse. They will do what they want and you can more than likely forget about addressing any environmental issues that need to be addressed as a result of the impact study. The sale would be done and the citizens who live in and around these affected areas will lose.

CN has frequently said there would be "far-reaching economic and transportation benefits to the Chicago region" by moving the trains out of the city. I have yet to hear what benefit, either economic or transportation, I will personally see. Can you explain it to me?

It is my hope that the STB is looking out for what is in the best interest of us, here locally, in the US and that you are just not to help CN increase their bottom line.

I am strongly encouraging you to do the right thing by amending your meeting site to a location closer to the immediately affected area of Aurora and the surrounding cities. I also find CN's suggested compromise to push the sale ahead prior to the completion of the environmental study unacceptable. I hope you have the moral integrity to find it unacceptable as well.

I live here..... I should have a say.

Regards,

Linda Brusseau
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