

August 21, 2008

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

**RE: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-Control—
EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)**

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of the City of Aurora for seven years, I've been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National (CN). It is my understanding, that there will be a significant increase in train traffic (over 70%) and hazardous waste traveling through our community.

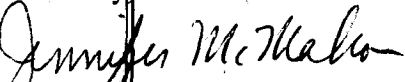
The potential environmental impacts related to the transportation of hazardous materials are of great concern. There are numerous residents located immediately adjacent to the EJ&E Railroad line with an elementary school and park located less than a mile away. These households have also experienced years of noise and vibrations from existing train traffic. The EIS notes an increase of both diesel fuel pollution and gasoline pollution with this transaction. Having a chronic disease that is affected by toxins in my air, food and water, I'm not enthusiastic about the impacts on air quality.

Secondly, this transaction in effect eliminates the STARline, a sorely need suburb-to-suburb commuter line that would provide a western access to O'Hare Airport. Does the EIS take into consideration the important positive environmental impact such a service would provide?

Finally, on a national level, this transaction is designed to take billions of dollars from U.S. businesses to a foreign company. I am frustrated that this financial motivation is being used to undermine the long-standing federal oversight process administered by your Board. CN's threat of legal action so shareholders don't lose money is at the expense of the public good – something they are touting as their motivation. I encourage the STB to resist this manipulation of the process.

It is because of my concerns about safety, quality of life, and national economics that I oppose this transaction. I hope the Surface Transportation Board considers the severe impacts on local residents when evaluating this transaction. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact me at 630/236-5835.

Sincerely,



Jennifer McMahon

cc: Judy Biggert, U.S. Representative