

13907

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Docket #: -STB -35087 -

Subject: * CN Railroad takeover

First Name: * Eva

Middle Name:

Last Name: * Behrens

Address: * 22065 Oakton Ave.

City: * Frankfort

State: * IL

Zip Code: * 60423-

Email Address: * EvaBelieva@comcast.net

Group/Affiliation: * Citizen of Frankfort, IL

Message: I am sending you my protest letter concerning the proposed takeover of EJ&E Railroad by Canada National (CN) Railroad.

Thank you,

--Eva Behrens

Mrs. Eva Behrens
22065 Oakton Avenue
Frankfort, IL 60423

9/11/2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of the city of Frankfort, IL where the Canadian National Railway wants to merge with another, EJ&E, simply for the economic reason of exponentially multiplying their already titanic profits. (Please note, in this recessionary time and bear market—only the railroad stocks are making money HAND OVER FIST. They are witnessing record stock market gains every day and bottom-line profits that are soaring, all while the rest of us are suffering through one of the worst economic conditions of our day.)

They will destroy in one day what we have built up over a century now in these beautiful communities bordering the rail lines. We really are beautiful communities—the demographics prove it. We live in one of the highest growth rates in the country (Will County and Southwestern Cook County) let alone the state of Illinois! Just in Frankfort alone and within the past 10 years we have built-out around two existing high schools (Lincoln-Way East and Lincoln-Way Central) to accommodate the booming population explosion of families moving into our area AND have recently finished construction of our third high school this year (Lincoln-Way North) and are midway through completion of our **FOURTH** high school (Lincoln-Way West). If that's not an indication of people wanting to live in a beautiful, well-run, thriving community, I don't know what is!

But, this is all being threatened now with this potential merger! I used to live nearby a community with a lot of train traffic. The communities around the railroad stagnated and floundered rather than flourished. No one wanted to buy a house nearby these communities due to all the train traffic and all the problems they posed. Economically, it was such a tragedy for all, except for the train companies, of course. EVERYBODY associated with the town, its businesses as well as its residents, lost their small piece of the American Dream. Once thriving and lucrative businesses became emptied-out storefronts, homes became boarded-up and in disrepair. My point is, don't let this happen to our community of Frankfort! We may not have the clout of a booming metropolis like our nearby city of Chicago, but we are thriving and growing with so much potential for the future! To have it destroyed for the sake of increasing the corporate profits of a railroad company who will have absolutely no stake or interest in our families, our communities, our economics, and our livelihoods is destroying what the real meaning of what the American Dream is all about.

Frankfort is a piece of the American Dream that we bought into.... please, allow us to live it, in peace and harmony, as when we first found it.

God bless,

--Eva Behrens