

12 September 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Attn: Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance

RE: **STB Finance docket # 35087 -- Canadian National purchase of EJ&E Railroad**

Dear STB board,

The **Draft Environmental Impact Statement** recently reviewed in the affected communities in northern Illinois contains a significant number of *flaws and omissions* that left uncorrected will slant the report in Canadian Nationals favor.

The safety, disruption and negative financial impact to the 30 some communities is beyond comprehension. There is not a single benefit to the affected communities and the hundreds of thousands of people that live, work , go to school and pass through them.

Comments on the CN website make vague reference to unspecified benefits to the Chicago metropolitan area with complete disregard to the many obvious down side concerns. By the way *we are* the Chicago metropolitan area.

With EJ&E tracks circling the entire Chicago area and with all other rail lines crossing them, (several already owned by CN), another thing that comes to mind is *monopoly*.

Furthermore if CN has a problem with the sale date they should be negotiating with the seller instead of running Rambo style over the STB process.

Here are but a few of the DEIS deficiencies:

1) The total number of train accidents on the EJ&E are projected to increase by 28%.

If the number of trains each day quadruples from 5 to 20 or more, it only stands to reason that the *accident rate would increase accordingly to 300% or more.*

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5) A minimum of 15 minute intervals between trains.

6) **CN will establish a \$10,000,000 fund for fines** and install crossing gates equipped with **gate down timing devices**. Over limit violations will signal a computer to immediately issue a bank transfer to an applicable township(s) account. If the CN fund becomes depleted, the rail system will be shut down.

Any train blocking any intersection for **any reason** longer than **five minutes** will be assessed a fine of \$100,000 per minute. Multiple intersections = multiple fines.

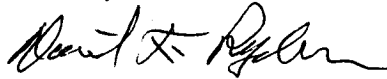
7) Canadian National will fully pay for at least **three grade separations** in Barrington.

8) Canadian National will purchase **Life & Injury insurance policies** covering every K-12 student attending a school within one mile of EJ&E. IE: Barrington High School,

9) Canadian National **will fund property assessments** for all property within one mile of EJ&E tracks and pay each owner the **depreciated difference amount**.

If the direction of EJ&E were for the residents of Illinois by saving fuel, traffic congestion, etc., the subject would be passenger trains. However the issue here is really about Canadian Nationals bottom line.

Sincerely,



David K. Ryckman
157 L Helm Road
Barrington Hills, Ill 60010

cc: Robert Abboud
Karen Darch
Gene Dawson
Representative Melissa Bean