

August 29, 2008

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Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

I want to re-state that as a taxpayer of Illinois and a resident of one of the affected communities I am against the proposed sale of the EJ&E to CN and I maintain the position that the board should deny this request. I have the following comments and concerns regarding the Draft EIS:

- 1) The communities surrounding the EJ&E have grown to large metropolitan areas over the years while the EJ&E grade crossings have remained rural crossings. The waiting time for road traffic at these grade crossings will increase to unacceptable levels if approval is given to CN to acquire the EJ&E and freight train traffic is allowed to increase to the levels proposed. This will cause the many vehicles that use these crossings daily to waste expensive fuel while waiting at grade crossings and place another financial hardship on us the residents of the affected communities. The DEIS has not accurately addressed the number of grade crossings that will be affected. Before final approval is considered these grade crossings all need to be accurately assessed and a mitigation plan put in place by CN to correct all these conditions.
- 2) The increased transportation of hazardous material through our neighborhoods and backyards is also a concern if approval is given to CN to acquire the EJ&E and freight train traffic is allowed to increase to the levels proposed. Before final approval is considered the DEIS should address this issue further and require CN to present, establish and set up both a escrow fund and a remediation plan in advance that can be utilized immediately by the affected community and its residents should a hazmat event occur.
- 3) Noise, vibration and air pollution levels will be increased in my neighborhood and backyard if approval is given to CN to acquire the EJ&E track and freight train traffic is allowed to increase to the levels proposed. Much of it coming during the overnight hours when families in these communities are trying to sleep. This issue should be further investigated in the DEIS, the potential noise levels tested and a mitigation plan established and put in place in the affected neighborhoods before final approval is considered.
- 4) Our home is in an established quite residential neighborhood with a rural setting. The EJ&E tracks back up to my home and another concern is my house will depreciate in value if approval is given to CN to acquire the EJ&E and freight train traffic is allowed to increase to the levels proposed. While the DEIS does

acknowledge that my home will indeed decrease in value there is no mitigation plan established to address this issue. This issue should be further investigated and a mitigation plan established and put in place to reimburse the affected home owners before final approval is considered.

Douglas Money
1365 Mallard Lane
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60192

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Money", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.