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Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Hello! I'm writing this letter to express strong concern regarding the proposed purchase of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company, by Canadian National Railway.

I'm joining a large number of home owners to fight this purchase. OR if the purchase does happen, to make sure the CN Railway contributes the appropriate funds to solve resulting safety, traffic and environmental concerns.

I went to a meeting with the STB in Barrington, IL along with 5000 other people who wanted their voices to be heard. The DEIS was very unsettling and disappointing in that it did not fully consider the impact of this purchase on the local residents and businesses. This is an issue that is faced right now due to the CN purchase of EJ&E, but will be faced in countless other towns and states in future rail purchases.

Hopefully the HR 6707 will pass in Congress to protect American citizens from this and future proposed purchases. This law is needed due to the incredible changes in our lives from the early times of rail use. At that time it was a country much less populated. Unprecedented rights of way, land grants, and even the right to change the course of rivers were granted to the railroads. Today there needs to be serious reviews of many different areas before these types of changes are approved.

While it is understandable that the use of the railways must increase due to the rising prices of fuels, it also seems obvious that there are infrastructure changes that must be made to accommodate this railway use. These infrastructure changes are highly necessary for safety reasons – ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles – these first responder vehicles can't possibly sit for 20 minutes waiting for freight trains. These infrastructure changes will be costly beyond imagining and those costs must be born by CN Railway. They will profit from the increased business, they showed a \$2 Billion profit in 2007. The taxpayers cannot possibly absorb this cost into their already heavily taxes lives.

Apparently an environmental review is not required before the STB makes their decision. This is hard to imagine, but I would sincerely hope that environmental concerns would be considered.

This purchase would have a negative impact on commuter trains as well, delays and accidents. I read of a tragic accident in Los Angeles recently between a commuter train and a freight train. There needs to be monitoring of the situation for a decade or more. CN needs to be held liable for negative impact – delays and safety. CN is already well known in Canada for having a terrible safety record. In 2005 the Canadian government found that 54% of locomotives, 50% of train brakes, and 26% of crossings were defective. That is NOT OK if they bring their bad habits to our country.

The area that would be impacted by this purchase is already dealing with traffic concerns. This purchase would compound the existing problems greatly. This is another reason infrastructure changes will be needed. Again, these expenses need to be born by CN, they will profit, and they need to pay.

As I write this I just found out that CN is giving an ultimatum that they want a decision to be made by December 1st. CN never shows up at a meeting to hear the voices of the Americans who will be negatively impacted by this decision. But they come to a meeting to pressure a quick decision knowing that the added time will hurt them, because added time means we can do added research into their past records. Please do not give in to this pressure tactic.

Thank you for your consideration. I feel like this is a bit rambling, but there are SO many concerns to be examined and I don't want to make this too lengthy.

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