

George Safford
30W041 Willow Lane
Warrenville, IL 60555

September 1, 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 Warrenville for 15 years, I've been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National (CN). I know that the City of Warrenville has met with CN representatives three times and has conveyed resident concerns, particularly by those living so close to the tracks. 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. Like myself, 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 vibrations from existing train traffic. With such a proposed increase, how is vibration going to be mitigated?

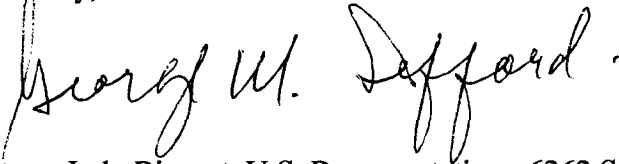
My final concern is about the City's ongoing efforts towards establishing a quiet zone. Staff and elected officials have dedicated approximately three years towards this goal. Will this transaction force the City to start at the beginning of this long process? Residents along the EJ&E have patiently waited for the quiet zone to be established for several years.

It is because of my concerns about safety and quality of life 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 630/876-1548.

There is yet another major issue that collides with the EJ&E purchase by CN: spoiling the strategic use of the EJ&E corridor for urban mass transit and megalopolis planning for northeast Illinois, southeast Wisconsin and northwest Indiana. Over 12 million people reside and work in this region and urban transit and urban sprawl will never be properly addressed if we the people fail to pay attention and solve these difficult problems. Losing affordable access to this swath of land will doom the long-planned StarLine commuter rail project. Strategically this damages our economy and the ability of the Chicagoland economy to prosper.

And yet another extension to these issues is: the American economy needs to better manage all forms of transportation to optimize its effectiveness and competitiveness. If rail transportation hubs are clogged in urban areas, then efficient bypass routes should be planned and engineered on a total systems approach, not the short-sighted local piecemeal approach, which only exacerbates the base problem: What is America to do in properly addressing international competition in freight management? Canada and Mexico are in the process of taking our rail markets away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George W. Safford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

cc: Judy Biggert, U.S. Representative - 6262 South Route 83, Suite 305, Willowbrook, IL 60527

Bill Foster, U.S. Representative - 27 North River Street, Batavia, IL 60510