

August 22, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-Control-EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No. 35087)

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As members of the City of Warrenville Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC), we have been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National (CN). We know that the City has met with CN representatives three times and has conveyed our concerns, and the concerns of other residents living close to the tracks. It is our understanding that there will be a significant increase in train traffic (over 70%), delays at crossings for motorists and emergency vehicles, increased noise and vibrations, potential for additional train and motor vehicle accidents, as much as three times the rail traffic carrying hazardous materials traveling through our community, increased use of energy, and increased emissions from vehicles idling at crossings.

The potential environmental effects related to the above-mentioned impacts are of great concern to the EAC, as well as to the numerous residents located immediately adjacent to the EJ&E tracks, and the elementary school and park located less than a mile away. Some of us have experienced years of vibrations from existing train traffic. With such a large proposed increase, how are these impacts going to be mitigated? And at who's expense?

The City has been in the process of establishing a quiet zone for the past three years. The many residents living adjacent to the tracks have already waited for three years for the quiet zone. Will this transaction force the City to start back at the beginning of this long process?

We oppose this transaction based on our concerns about safety and quality of life, and hope the Surface Transportation Board considers the severe impacts on local residents when evaluating this transaction.

Sincerely,
The Warrenville Environmental Advisory Commission
By: 
Betty Roubik, Chair

C: Judy Biggert, US Representative
Bill Foster, US Representative