

**Phillis Johnson-Ball  
395 E Street  
SW Washington, DC 20423**

**Attention: Environmental Filing, STB Finance Docket NO, 35087**

**First, thank you for taking the time to read this letter.**

**Progress should be easy, painless and good for everyone involved, but alas, it is not. In my 72 years of life, 35 of them as a resident of Mokena, Illinois, I have witnessed many large corporation "improvements". They are always good for a few, but seldom good for the majority.**

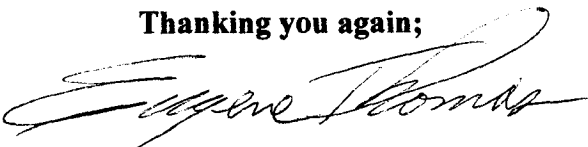
**Not wanting this letter to become a novel, let me just provide my thoughts on this EJ&E proposal. From a business view point, I can see were EJ&E would like to skirt around Chicago's hub as much as possible and cost them as close to zero dollars as possible in the process. However, as one of many suburbanites that are looking for minimum noise and congestion (traffic tie-ups), I can't approve EJ&E's proposal which will increase train traffic better than 400% per day, seven days a week.**

**Building underpasses and/or overpasses is an option. But lets face it, a project of that magnitude will require an extensive study, possibly require property condemnation to make way for elevation grading and most likely will never be completed. The end result could still be a negative impact on communities. Compound that with the fact that EJ&E, the only participant reaping benefits from this transaction, wants to only contribute up to 10% of the cost for funding under and overpass construction. This is ludicrous, those that are causing the problem and benefit the most should sustain the bulk of expenses.**

**Also, do not lose site of police, fire and emergency issues that develop with frequent and long road blockage due to the increased train traffic.**

**Please, take into consideration the many and more eloquent petitions of communities and citizens that are trying to protect their environment and not let EJ&E (and it's money) ruin our way of life.**

**Thanking you again;**



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