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GERI GAJ
45 ROSEWOOD DRIVE
HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS 60047-7729

July 28, 2008

STB DCJ 9/22/08

Ms Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket number 35087

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Please accept this letter as my declaration of opposition to the Canadian National Railroad being allowed to purchase the EJ&E Railroad here in Northern Illinois. The plan of Canadian National to increase the number of trains by a factor of four or five would impact the health and safety of every community where the EJ&E intersects. Here in Hawthorn Woods, Illinois our fire and ambulance station serves nearly have the township separated by the EJ&E track. Should Canadian National gain ownership and produce the expected increase in rail traffic, our accessibility to timely fire and safety services would become virtually non-existent.

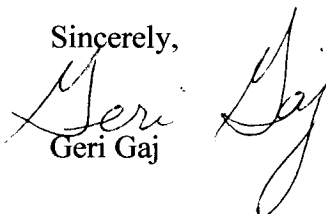
As an example; for all of the residents living near the intersection of Quentin and Old McHenry Roads, when a long freight train is blocking the intersections at Gilmer Road, Old McHenry Road, Oakwood Road, and original Route 22, fire trucks and ambulances would have to make a four (4) mile detour by traveling south into Lake Zurich to use the railroad underpass on new Route 22. This amounts to nothing but a negative impact on the quality of life.

If the Canadian National Railroad and EJ&E Railroad companies continue forward with this plan before any of the infrastructure is in place to ensure accessibility to timely fire and safety services, as well as residents, being able to avoid the negative impact on our quality of life, it is very blatantly obvious these two companies as well as our legislative leaders really only care about the political and financial impact to their own means and not the residents of these communities.

That scenario will be played out time and time again along the entire route of the EJ&E.

In advance, I want to thank you for taking in the consideration of all the citizens along the EJ&E route.

Sincerely,


Geri Gaj