

9-22-08

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
REF: STB finance docket #35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am a resident of Frankfort, Illinois, writing to express my strong disapproval of the sale of the EJ&E rail line to The Canadian National Railway. I truly hope that you will take into consideration the thousands of families like mine who will be adversely impacted by this sale. Among the concerns my neighbors, community members and friends have are the increased noise and vibration, an increase of hazardous materials through our neighborhoods, and the delay in emergency responses. In fact, last year a friend experienced the horror of helplessly watching her cousin endure a grand mal seizure while she was stopped at a train crossing. Imagine how a two-mile-long freight train could affect the outcome of an ambulance responding to a heart attack or other emergency. These issues really just scratch the surface when considering how this train sale affects our community.

Recent published articles in the Chicago Tribune newspaper have shown how the sale would increase rail traffic tremendously for some communities, including Frankfort. According to the Tribune, Mayor Daley of Chicago supports the sale because it would decrease rail traffic in the city. According to these articles, crossings in Chicago would see a decrease of 2 trains per day. However, Frankfort would see an increase of 22+ trains per day. This disproportionate increase/decrease is not a matter of fairness. It is just plain wrong to saddle smaller towns with this burden. Our small town simply does not have the infrastructure in place to deal with the burden of these proposed trains. The intersection of Wolf Road and Route 30 is a nightmare now, and the addition of lengthy trains at Wolf Road would be a certain disaster. There is really no way around the tracks. We don't have the option of several routes like a bigger city does.

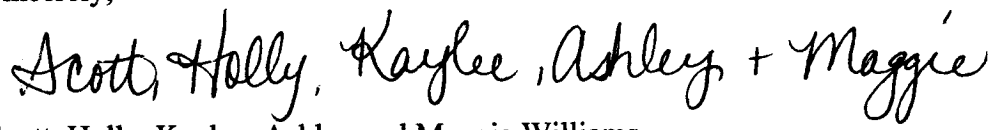
Additionally, the CN seems eager to push this sale through and work out the details later. The Tribune published articles stating that CN wants to move the sale date to October, before thorough mitigating measures can be investigated and calculated. This sounds like a classic case of a bully trying to beat up the little guy. Frankly, with property taxes approaching \$11,000, we are literally pinched for every penny we have. We simply cannot afford to help foot the bill for this sale, especially when it brings absolutely no benefit to our community.

There are so many other concerns that I have, but for sake of brevity I will list just one more: the safety of our children. The EJ&E line cuts through the very heart of Frankfort – through a summer camp, near our schools, and through neighbor's backyards. Some

crossings do not even have gates at them, and school children on bikes and busses cross these on their way to and from school. I fear that even with gates, the temptation would still be there to "beat the train" and take unnecessary risks. Yes, this rail line has been here for a long time, but the current rail traffic is rather benign. Allowing the CN purchase to go through would introduce a malignancy that could not be removed. It will endanger lives, reduce our quality of lives, and result in financial burdens that we simply cannot shoulder.

We desperately need your help. Please say no to this foreign company. Help us conquer the Goliath that we cannot defeat on our own. Help us preserve our homes and our safety. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott, Holly, Kaylee, Ashley + Maggie". The script is cursive and fluid, with the names connected together.

Scott, Holly, Kaylee, Ashley and Maggie Williams