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8/23/08

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The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West
Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am a resident of Frankfort, Illinois who will be impacted by the CN purchase of EJ&E Railroad. I am writing to express my deepest concern if this should happen. Behind my home there are a set of tracks and if this sale were to take place the value of the home, which we worked very hard to purchase, will depreciate. The trains moving through will also take their toll on the structure of our home, the quality of air in our backyard and the ability to hold a conversation in our yard and home.

I am also wondering why we are benefiting a Canadian Co. when so many companies in our own country are failing. People are struggling now and so many people will be affected that live along this area that the new train lines will affect.

I hope and pray that you will veto the requisition by the CNR of any train line in the U.S. in order to save on time.

I understand that the EJ&E tracks in Frankfort have not received major repairs in over 25 years. That's one reason the experienced engineers go so slowly through Frankfort. Now the Canadian National is proposing to increase the number of trains by over 400% and they state that they will run trains through our community at 45 miles per hour on these old tracks. I wonder if the authors of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement have read the report to the Canadian House of Commons from the Standing Committee on Transport that severely criticizes the safety record of the Canadian National Railway. Perhaps the most alarming comment in the report is that by 2008, the CN had only implemented one out of the five safety measures it was ordered to implement by the Canadian government back in 2001. If they won't implement safety measures for their own government, why should we believe that they will show a concern for safety when operating in the United States? In fact Canadian National employees are quoted in the report as saying that they work in a "culture of fear," which affects safety.

Please make sure that the final Environmental Impact Study takes the safety record of the CN into consideration. We are counting on you to help avoid a tragedy in our community.

Respectfully,