

13873

Other Submissions

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Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: * EJ&E Railroad Puchase
First Name: * Laura
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Last Name: * Beck
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Group/Affiliation:
Message: September 22, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of Frankfort, a community that will be negatively impacted with the increased number of trains being proposed with the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I would like to express my concerns

In my opinion, this is simply another example of putting corporate needs (and not even a US company) over the needs of the people of these communities. I understand that there are other companies in the US that may benefit, however I don't feel compelled to sacrifice my home value, my money or my quality of life for their benefit either. They should move their companies if they can't operate at a profit without taking more from the citizens. This is the same problem that we are all going to be paying for with the Federal bail out of corrupt corporate executives only on a smaller scale.

The folks here and in neighboring communities will be subjected to:

- 1) A decrease in the value of their homes
- 2) A negative impact on their quality of life for various reasons such as noise, delays during their commutes and delays in emergency response times.
- 3) An increase in tax dollars to help mediate
 - a) the downward value of homes causing a corresponding drop in real estate tax revenue that is generated

- b) the costs associated with adding emergency response capabilities on both sides of the tracks.
- c) the costs associated with mitigating the impact of noise and traffic problems.
- d) the costs for extensive hazardous materials management training of emergency response teams.
- 4) The risks of a potential hazardous material spill that could cause damage in the millions.

We are gaining nothing by this transaction and taking on the burden of other areas. As was stated by many of the protestors at the meetings, I moved out to this "small" town to stay away from all of the congestion. Now they are bringing it out to me and my family. I wish there would have been enough time for these communities to work out an agreement to purchase it for \$300M than to suffer financial burdens of around \$2 billion along with all the other consequences of this purchase by CN.

Please take my concerns into consideration when you make your recommendation and vote "NO" to the CN. This issue along with what is happening in the nation requires the strength and courage of people who really do "Put the people first".

Sincerely,

Laura Beck
22088 Heritage Drive
Frankfort, IL 60423