

FRED OOMS

2005 West 139th Street; Lot #157
Blue Island, IL 60406

June 30, 2008

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

Subject: CN Railway Company/EJ&E
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Given what I have observed occurring on the tracks and on the roads in my area, I think CN Railway's proposed purchase of part of the EJ&E Railway Company is a great idea. CN will use this acquisition, if approved, as a springboard to rerouting a lot of the freight train traffic that goes through Blue Island.

I have an intimate knowledge of how frequently freight trains pass through Blue Island because the tracks are right behind my house. Although I do not drive, I know that several people have decided they don't want to live in this area anymore because of the rail congestion. Residents are frustrated with the number of train crossings, the long waits at train crossings, and the poor quality of our air due to emissions from slow-moving trains.

Unfortunately, train congestion has also led to more tragic results. A fire truck was traveling from Dixmoor in order to put out a fire near Blue Island; it was delayed at a train crossing. Subsequently, the building burned down. While the building was lost, we are all grateful that lives were not.

Something needs to be done to provide the residents of this area with relief from train congestion. By moving a large number of trains to the outskirts of the suburban area, CN will be accomplishing just that. Trains, commuters, and first responders will be able to move throughout the area with fewer delays. I sincerely hope you approve this purchase so CN can move forward with their plan. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Fred Ooms

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MANAGEMENT
STB