

September 21, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC
20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

RE: Support of HR6707 to Opposed the Canadian National Railway (CN) Purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E)

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of a community that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if CN is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, I ask that you do everything in your power to stop this deal before it is too late and support H.R. 6707, the "Taking Responsible Action for Community Safety" Act.

With its planned acquisition of the EJ&E, CN has become the poster child in highlighting the necessity for this clarification of law. It does not make sense to give a private railroad company the ability to determine what is in the best interests of the area and require that taxpayers pay the costs for roadway, environmental, noise and vibration mitigation.

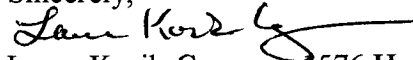
As you may be aware, this proposed bill would require the STB to more thoroughly consider the impacts of a transaction on the surrounding communities and reinforces the STB's ability to include mitigation requirements. The bill changes rail law to explicitly tell the Board that "it shall not approve a transaction" if the adverse impacts on safety and affected communities "outweigh the transportation benefits."

I am very concerned about public safety, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and environmental and economic losses. I appreciate your public opposition of this transaction and ask that you step in as our federal elected representatives and take whatever action necessary in order to prevent a transaction that will devastate the economic viability and livability of your congressional districts. I ask that you take all these comments into consideration.

Additional Comments:

Even before this goes through, we already have issues with trains on Diehl Rd and Liberty Rd coming to complete stops while traffic waits 10+ minutes. This can not be tolerated, not is it safe for emergency situations, it makes parents late for picking up young children, it is polluting as cars wait in hopes that the train will pass quickly and it does not. Improvement are currently needed and it will make matters far worse if the railway gets their way.

Sincerely,



Laura Kosik-Cosenza, 1576 Harris Dr, Aurora, IL 60502

cc: Congressional Transportation Committee