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Renée Kosel
State Representative • 81st District
Assistant Republican Leader

Springfield Office: Stratton Office Building Springfield, Illinois 62706 217.782.0424 217.557.7249 fax

February 7, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball, Environmental Filing

Gentlemen:

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

As State Representative of the 81st legislative district (which includes Frankfort, Mokena and New Lenox), I am extremely concerned over the purchase of the EJ&E Railway by Canadian National Railway and their proposed changes that have been presented to these affected communities. These changes will significantly alter the safety and well being of my communities and adversely impact the quality of life within them.

The increase in length/weight of trains will close off whole sections of our communities because there are no grade separations within two of my communities. The third community has a bridge that was built in the early 1900's and constructed out of timber and bolts which is sorely in need of repair. We have two grade crossings that do not even have gates. These two sections are deplorable for a rail crossing that currently carries eight trains daily and absolutely unacceptable in any way, shape or form for a line that would carry 28 trains on a daily basis.

Significant improvements need to be made to the existing track levels, and I would strongly encourage that you do whatever is within your authority to correct the current problems before even considering any expansion of traffic along these lines.

I respectfully submit this to you and urge your consideration of the concerns stated above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renée Kosel".

Renée Kosel
Illinois State Representative – 81st Legislative District
Assistant House Republican Leader

STB Finance Board

CN-EJ&E - 7-8D-15037

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