

12666

Joan Johnston
30W013 Plum Ct
Warrenville, IL 60555

August 30, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-Control—EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket No.35087)

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a resident of the City of Warrenville for six years, I've been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National (CN). I know that the City of Warrenville has met with CN representatives three times and has conveyed resident concerns, particularly by those living so close to the tracks. It is my understanding, that there will be a significant increase in train traffic and hazardous waste traveling through our community. My concern for a healthy environment is a priority.

In addition to this, wildlife and plant life, including the endangered wetlands in our area, will be severely affected due to the increase in pollutants from automobile/truck exhaust (while waiting longer periods for the trains to pass at designated crossings), trains will pass directly over a natural gas line in the Warrenville community, emergency responders will be blocked from getting to their destinations, due to increased train traffic at crossings and property values will decline significantly. The proposed Star Line commuter train will be history before it even begins.

The potential environmental impacts related to the transportation of hazardous materials are of great concern. Like myself, there are numerous residents located immediately adjacent to the EJ&E Railroad Line with an elementary school and park located less than a mile away. These households have also experienced years of vibration from existing train traffic. It is a fact that regular vibrations of this kind will affect the foundations of buildings, in particular residential properties and cause damage.

Another concern is in regard to the city's ongoing efforts toward establishing a quiet zone. Staff and elected officials have dedicated approximately three years towards this goal. Residents along the EJ&E have patiently waited for the quiet zone to be established for several years. This sale will extinguish any hope of reducing noise pollution.

It is because of my concerns about safety and quality of life that I oppose this transaction I hope that the Surface Transportation Board considers the severe impact on local residents when evaluating this transaction. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Joan Johnston

Cc: Judy Biggert, U.S. Representative- 6262 South Rt.83, Suite 305, Willowbrook, IL 60527
Bill Foster, U.S. Representative- 27 North River St., Batavia, IL 60510