

July 23, 2008

Ms. Victoria Rutson  
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**RE: Docket # 35087, CN Purchase of the EJ&E**

Dear Ms. Rutson:

As residents of one of the communities (Aurora, Illinois) that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if Canadian National Railway (CN) is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, we urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the interests of the residents of our region are protected against the negative impacts of this acquisition.

It is our understanding that the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) on this transaction will be released shortly. This document will let the region know what we can expect in the way of public protection from your agency. We are concerned that our community will be facing significant issues related to public safety, environment, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and economic losses if this acquisition is approved. None of these issues are being adequately dealt with by the CN, which is why we are asking you to fully address these issues in the DEIS.

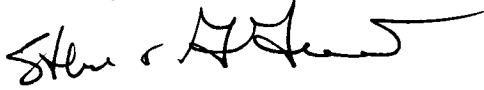
Additionally, in finalizing the DEIS, please ensure the following two issues are fully and adequately addressed:

- CN's unwillingness to provide freight traffic projections beyond three years (a cut off that precedes the Phase 2 expansion of the major new port served by CN – the Port of Prince Rupert in western Canada). CN needs to provide capacity data and operational projections to 2020, at the very least. If the American Association of Railroads can demand taxpayer investments in rail infrastructure to accommodate a projected growth in rail freight of 88% by 2035, it is inconceivable that the CN cannot quantify its own long-range business projections involving the EJ&E.
- Due to the significance of the potential impacts to our communities and region, we must ask for a longer review period than 45 days to respond to the DEIS. Communities need 120 days for a due diligence review that can adequately examine the data used to arrive at

the conclusions and to respond to the study's findings.

We thank you for your attention to this significant issue for our region,  
and our community, and urge you to do all in your power to protect our  
interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven & Glenna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven H. and Glenna Ganster  
1405 Greenlake Drive  
Aurora, Illinois 60502