



NEW ERA ACCEPTANCE CORP.

111 Lions Drive, Suite 206
Barrington, Illinois 60010

~~XXX 847 381 1070~~

(847) 381-1070 (847) 381-1073 (FAX)

August 26, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am a long-time resident of Barrington, Illinois, having lived in the area since 1978. I have owned four different homes in the area and have put four children through Barrington schools. I have worked hard to establish a small business which employs 12 people. I pay hefty taxes for the privilege of living in a community that has the atmosphere and life-style of the Barrington area. The proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railroad ("EJ") by the Canadian National RR ("CN") will have an absolutely devastating effect on longtime Barrington residents like me. The proposed purchase will increase freight traffic through our communities by 400% or more. The personal impact to me and my business is that I will lose employees who will refuse to suffer the interminable delays at railroad crossings and I will lose clients who will go elsewhere rather than suffer these delays. Barrington traffic congestion due to existing rail traffic is already extreme at peak hours of the day. The proposed acquisition will ensure that it remains unbearable all day long. Why are mitigation expenses not being addressed factually and fairly?

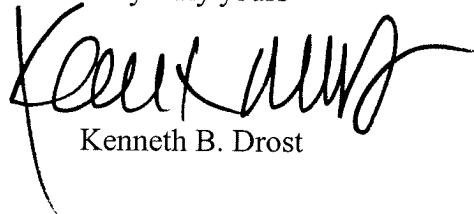
The proposed acquisition will adversely affect safety. Access to hospital, fire and police services will be impeded. 840 school buses cross these tracks on a given school day. The trains run within 600 feet of Barrington High School, increasing the risk of rail accidents. There is also no consideration being given to the future of the proposed Star line, which would reduce congestion, pollution, and our dependence on foreign oil.

The Draft Environmental Impact Study ("DEIS") proposes a grade separation for only the Route 59/Hough street crossing. There are at least three other major crossings that involve extensive traffic: Route 14; Lake Cook Road and Cuba Road. Route 14 is the most traveled road in the area. Why were these intersections not considered important? In addition, there is no rail-to-rail separation recognized for the Union Pacific/EJ crossing, which will undoubtedly have a major impact on Metra trains at a time when commuter rail usage is exploding.

Phillis Johnson-Ball
August 26, 2008
Page Two

This proposed transaction is designed for the financial benefit of a foreign corporation that proposes to place virtually the entire burden of mitigating the environmental and economic impact on the residents whose community was here long before the railroad was. We have lived with trains and built our lives and town around the current train traffic. The proposed purchase will adversely affect our live-style with a severe impact on our safety, economy, environment, and future growth and development. I urge you to reject the proposed acquisition unless and until CN addresses these urgent problems.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth B. Drost", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth B. Drost

KBD:rs