

September 18, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider the positive environmental impact of the proposed Canadian National Railroad's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway (EJ&E) on the freight train congestion in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago.

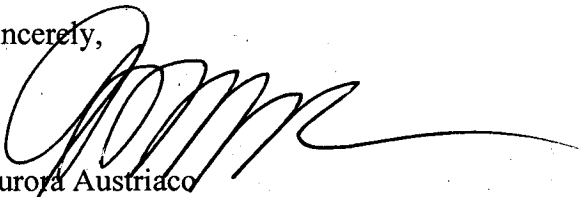
Two heavily impacted communities are Des Plaines and Mt. Prospect. The Canadian National trains disrupt life in these communities on a daily basis – delaying children getting to school, workers to their places of employment and, more seriously, fire and police responding to emergency calls.

The communities of Des Plaines and Mt. Prospect stand to see major reductions in freight traffic – as many as 15 trains a day based upon documents filed by Canadian National Railroad. **That is one less train every ninety minutes.**

Much of the media and STB attention has been directed to the communities that lie near the EJ&E rail lines because they have screamed the loudest. It is your responsibility to make a decision that has the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people. This proposal will benefit far more people than it will negatively affect. **Their voices must be heard.**

Finally, if resources are to be invested in overpasses or underpasses, the Surface Transportation must not give preferences to the EJ&E communities over communities elsewhere in the region that have more freight traffic and have waited decades for congestion relief.

Sincerely,



Aurora Austriaco
Candidate for State Representative
65th District