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*MaryAnn E. Ryan
785 John Court
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-719-2326*

August 26, 2008

RE: STB Finance Docket 35087
CN acquisition of EJ&E Railroad

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by CN, and the subsequent effect it will have on my community. I have been a resident of Lake Zurich for the past 4 years, and have come to deeply love this community for what it offers me and my family in this hectic and uncertain world we live in.

I find it deplorable that a privately owned company, whose only true objective is to line its own pockets, will have the ability to jeopardize my town and other towns like it by its plans to "reduce" train congestion in the Chicago region and reroute it through our many suburbs.

I have extensively read the DEIS report, as well as CN's explanation of how this will benefit so many of the congested railroad routes in the Chicago region. It doesn't take much to read between the lines and figure out what really is about to happen should this take place.

My major concern is the increase in trains that will go through our towns. Lake Zurich has at least 4 crossings that will go from 4 trains a day to 20 or more. The impact this will have on our first-responders will be dangerous to the safety of our citizens. To give you a personal example, back in January of 2008, my disabled husband experienced life-threatening pulmonary emboli in both lungs as well as a blood clot in his left leg. It was through the quick response of our Lake Zurich paramedics, as well the clear route to the hospital, which saved his life.

As a registered nurse, I know that for each minute a heart attack patient's treatment is delayed, their survival rate is reduced by 10%. Therefore, CN's proposed 4-6 minute freight train would reduce survival by 40-60%!! Is this what we have come to? When a company's need to make profits surpasses the value of human life?

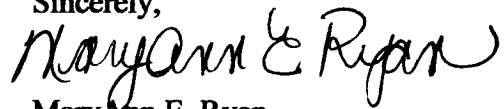
I have read all the pros that CN and the DEIS have stated will occur. Most are flawed and/or unsubstantiated. Some of my other concerns are as follows:

- 1) Environmental and safety issues regarding transportation of hazardous freight through our communities.
- 2) Noise and vibration issues that have not been thoroughly addressed (rejected by EPA).

- 3) No market analysis of impact on house values or retail businesses in an already volatile economy.
- 4) The resulting taxpayer investment that will be needed to ensure safety at crossings (CN only wants to provide minimum to none of the cost.
- 5) Alternatives that have not been fully explored (CREATE).
- 6) Future impact on towns supposedly "benefiting", when it's a fact that railroad congestion will increase exponentially over the next 20 years. (Short term benefit at most to these towns, which at the present time think they are getting a deal).
- 7) No real substantiated benefits to the plan.
- 8) Will harm the future plans for expanding commuter service through the suburbs (STAR).
- 9) Pollution due to increased traffic congestion at crossings, as well as fuel waste.

For these reasons, and I am sure many more, I feel the future growth and safety of our towns and communities are dependent on this proposal being stopped.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MaryAnn E. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MaryAnn E. Ryan