

Sept. 18, 2008

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am a resident of New Lenox, and I am formally **opposing** the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

Environmental Impact

If the CN purchase of the EJ & E is allowed to proceed, the impact to surrounding schools, churches and neighborhoods will have devastating consequences. The sound and vibration of thundering, fuming freight trains every 51 minutes will be felt for miles along these tracks. Add to this, the noise and most concerning, the increased risk of a toxic spill due to the 600% spike in harmful chemicals hauling through town at 45 miles per hour begs the question, "Will the STB ensure that the final environmental impact study addresses the significant negative environmental impact to our community?"

The Cost to US Taxpayers

The \$40 million CN has proposed to spend on infrastructure improvements is a drop in the bucket. Who will pay for the rest of the underpasses, grade separations and projected necessary infrastructure improvements that are needed to support projected population growth. Who will pay for the anticipated decline in property values? If the STB approves this transaction, then CN should be required to pay.

Emergency Response

Minutes count when lives are at stake. With 28 trains a day, police cars and fire trucks will be forced to wait with their sirens blaring, and considering New Lenox's population is anticipated to top 25,000, the impact could cost lives.

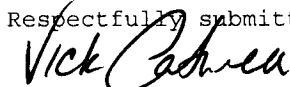
Is Congestion Better in the Suburbs?

Moving Chicago's rail congestion to the suburbs is not an effective solution. Please consider that relocating this problem does not effectively address the issue.

CN Safety Record

It has been 25 years since the EJ&E tracks in New Lenox have received major repairs. Considering CN's reluctance to implement Canadian safety measures, and its employees' "culture of fear," does the STB expect CN to honor US safety requirements? Please give CN's safety record your utmost priority when considering this purchase.

Respectfully submitted,


Vicki Cantwell