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Cory and Christine Echito
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August 27, 2008

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

As homeowners and a family living in Hoffman Estates, we are writing to you to express our opposition to the Canadian National acquisition of the EJ&E tracks.

We own and live in one of the homes that are within 250 feet of the EJ&E tracks. We disagree with your Draft Environmental Impact Study that states that **some** homes like ours **could** have a decrease in property value. We are more than frustrated with this assessment. Decreased property values are a certainty, and not just for homes within 250 feet of the tracks. We are all seeing a decrease in our property values due to the economy at the same time that we are experiencing significant increases in our property taxes. This combined with the effect of the Canadian National acquisition on the entire neighborhood will put many homeowners at financial risk of foreclosure should they be faced with job loss or need to sell their home for any reason.

We all paid a premium to purchase homes in this quiet neighborhood in a suburban community. Why isn't your DEIS considering just how much loss to property value there will be and how many people will be affected when our neighborhood is no longer a desirable place to live because of rail congestion? There will be a cumulative effect across every neighborhood impacted by this acquisition.

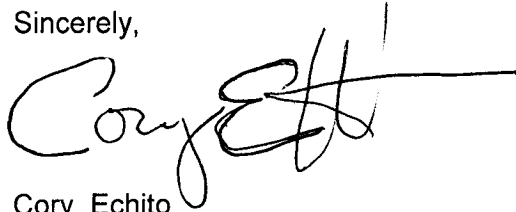
We can list the expected consequences of this purchase on our neighborhood:

- Our property values will decrease due to significant train noise and traffic
- Traffic on Shoe Factory Road will increase and back up during train crossings
- Families will have increased risk to hazard materials exposure from potential train accidents
- Families will hear train noise throughout the day and night
- Train crossings will delay morning commutes
- Train crossings that cause our children to be late for school will increase
- Traffic will increase on alternate roads that are already high-traffic: Interstate 90, Higgins Road, Golf/Summit Road
- Critical response time for emergency vehicles coming from the east will increase endangering our families' lives
- Accidents on the blind hill on Shoe Factory Road approaching the train crossing will increase

How do we express to you the very real economic hardship approving this rail acquisition will have on the residents along EJ&E? We've heard it said that we have no right to say "not in our backyard." Why not? Explain in your EIS why, as Americans, we can't expect the federal government to at least consider our right to protect our economic status and not force us into a hardship position. Please address the economic impact on residents along with the safety risks in your environmental impact study.

Do not allow the EJ&E tracks to be purchased by Canadian National. Don't trade benefits to big business for hardships to American citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Echito", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Cory Echito

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Echito", written in a cursive style.

Christine Echito