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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY
AND GRAND TRUNK CORPORATION
-CONTROL-
EJ&E WEST COMPANY

**TOWN OF GRIFFITH'S MOTION IN OPPOSITION TO CANADIAN
NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY'S MAY 13, 2008 REQUEST TO THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR AN EXPEDITED ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TIME LIMITS FOR A FINAL DECISION
IN ITS PENDING ACQUISITION OF THE EJ&E RAILROAD**

The Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana strongly opposes the Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation's (CN) request for an expedited environmental review and the setting of time limits for a final decision in its pending acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

The pending acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad will have a permanent and vastly detrimental impact upon the citizens of the Town of Griffith as stated in our Environmental Comments and Economic Comments submitted to this board on January 25, 2008. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that an extensive, thoughtful, and comprehensive environmental review take place to ensure that legitimate public concerns of not only the Town of Griffith, but all of the affected communities, in reference to safety, environmental, economic, and infrastructure as well as quality of life issues are adequately addressed.

CN's request is nothing more than an arrogant example of CN's position of always placing the company's bottom line above the quality of life and economic well being of the citizens and

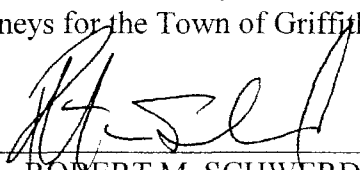
businesses of Northwest Indiana. CN's fear of losing money or losing its position in the market place is not and should not be a concern to the Surface Transportation Board. Nowhere in 40 C.F.R. §1500.8, does it state that a company's profits or ability to make business decision should be considered in establishing time limits of an environmental review process.

The Town of Griffith cannot stress strongly enough that if the CN's acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad is approved, there would be a minimum three-fold increase in rail traffic on the existing EJ&E tracks in Griffith. With a minimum of 34 trains per day the acquisition would bisect Griffith, impeding the flow of automobile traffic and cause automobiles to idle while waiting for a ten (10) minute or more train to pass. This would create havoc by blocking ingress and egress to businesses preventing police, fire, and ambulances from servicing large sections of the town for many minutes at a time. This would also add to the severe pollution problem in Northwest Indiana, which is a non attainment area regarding pollution levels. Three (3) of the Town's schools are located near the EJ&E tracks. Increased traffic by its very nature would create severe safety issues.

WHEREFORE, a thoroughly comprehensive and thoughtful review will clearly acknowledge the negative impact of the proposed acquisition. The citizens of the Town of Griffith are entitled to such a review however long it may take.

Respectfully submitted,

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