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August 19, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087
Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West
Company

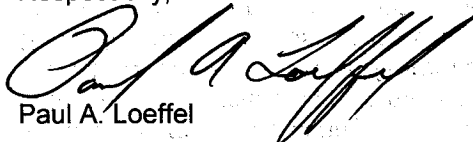
Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am a resident of Frankfort, Illinois who will be impacted by the CN purchase of EJ&E Railroad. I am writing to express my concerns about safety and the noise levels that the proposed sale will generate.

I live near a crossing where idle trains often sit for hours on end while waiting to either enter the switching yard or for a change of crew. The proposed increase in traffic would change a minor irritation into an unending nightmare of engine noise at all hours of the day and night. This will impact my family's quality of life from sleeping soundly at night to the resale value of our house. Secondly, the same crossing is used constantly by children and adults who must cross it to access the nearby bike path that services tens of thousands of people annually. It is my understanding that Canadian National is not responsible for funding improvements to the crossing. This will leave my community responsible for any safety upgrades to the crossing. At this time there are no pedestrian crossings or gates at this crossing. The light traffic on the EJ&E line currently does not pose a significant risk but a 400% increase in traffic would make me rethink letting my children cross the track to access the bike path. Finally, I wonder if the authors of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement have read the report to the Canadian House of Commons from the Standing Committee on Transport that severely criticizes the safety record of the Canadian National Railway. Perhaps the most alarming comment in the report is that by 2008, the CN had only implemented one out of the five safety measures it was ordered to implement by the Canadian government back in 2001. If they won't implement safety measures for their own government, why should we believe that they will show a concern for safety when operating in the United States?

Please make sure that the final Environmental Impact Study takes the safety record of the CN into consideration as well as the added noise pollution, and life safety issues. We are counting on you to help avoid a tragedy in our community.

Respectfully,


Paul A. Loeffel