

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being sent to voice my opposition to STB Finance Docket No. 35087, the sale of the EJ&E Railway Company to CN Railway. Specifically I will address how this proposed action will affect me and my family.

On December 8, 2006 my oldest daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes also known as Juvenile Diabetes. She is required to administer insulin multiple times throughout the day and evening in order to keep her blood sugar levels in their proper balance. If her levels are too high, she experiences headaches and what can best be described as the "shakes". If her levels are too low she runs the risk of going into a coma, where she will become unconscious and her brain functions will be compromised. It is the low blood sugar condition that is my greatest fear. Should this be the case, emergency medical attention would be called for immediately, with every minute that treatment is delayed crucial to her long term health. The Draft EIS severely underestimated the effect that the additional train traffic would have on the Frankfort community and the ability of the emergency medical services to effectively service the community. Ambulances rushing to my home could be seriously delayed because of the at-grade crossing near my home. But this does not only affect my daughter when she is at home. My daughter's school, Hickory Creek Middle School, is also adjacent to an at-grade crossing. This crossing currently does not even have the proper signaling devices. Nothing I have read or heard concerning STB Finance Docket No. 35087 explains any mitigation for these concerns. It is my understanding that the burden of mitigation will be shifted from the purchaser to the affected communities. CN Railways is in effect saying, "we broke it, but you fix it". Does this seem fair? That I will be forced to consider uprooting my family merely to benefit the bottom line of a corporation?

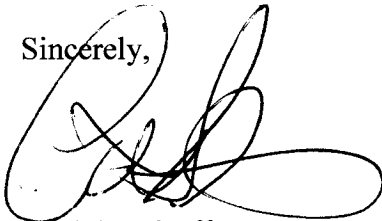
There are other personal concerns I have, but they pale in comparison with my daughter's welfare. However let me address these other concerns. First since the rail lines run directly behind my home, I am concerned about the constant noise that the increased traffic will produce. Yes I was aware that a rail line was behind my home but the 4 to 5 trains that currently use the line daily are merely a nuisance. Most days the trains, though audible, run in the middle of the night and are normally not loud enough to wake me. With the proposed increase to 28 trains per day, and let's be realistic, it is likely to be a greater number than that, it will mean that there will be more than one train passing by my home every hour, twenty-four hours a day. Put another way, trains will be passing my home more than 4 continuous hours of every day. And to tie this back into my

greatest concern, the at-grade crossing that emergency vehicles would need to cross to get to my daughter would be blocked 17% of the time, everyday.

Obviously with the increased noise, my home's value will be degraded. I wouldn't want to buy a home with one or more trains passing every hour. And this has had a very tangible effect on my decisions regarding my home. Just this summer I had architectural plans prepared to add a sunroom to the back of my home. I was willing to put \$80K into the local community economy to do this. But with this issue up in the air I have delayed any improvement to my home as it would be unlikely I would recoup the cost because of the adverse effect the increased train traffic would have on my home's future value. But again let me stress, no amount of personal monies lost even remotely influences my opposition, compared to the likely outcome of compromising my daughter's welfare.

Until all the environmental and community impacts of increased train traffic are fully understood and all proper mitigation costs are assumed and guaranteed by CN Railways, I strongly urge you to vote against STB Finance Docket No. 35087.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Spiroff', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Patrick Spiroff
586 Aberdeen Road
Frankfort, IL 60423