

17104

September 1, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20425

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I have been made aware of the possible take over of the EJ & E Railroad by the Canadian National Railroad, and I am writing to you with my concerns for the impact that this sale will have on my community of Frankfort, Illinois. Frankfort is known for being is a quiet, lovely, historic town, and people come here from surrounding areas to enjoy the parks, forest preserves, and historic downtown. It is a picturesque town, and living here is a real "Americana" experience.

We currently have approximately six trains that pass through our town in 24 hours. The frequency and length of these trains do not usually cause extreme noise, vibration or pollution, and have not negatively impacted our lives. However, it is clear from the Environmental Impact Report that if the sale of the EJ & E to CN is approved, the number of trains and size of the trains will increase significantly, and this increase will destroy our little town by creating considerable noise and air pollution.

It will also create long delays for travel into, out of, and through our town because we have six grade locations where long trains will constantly be crossing intersections. These delays will have serious implications for the police and fire departments that will be delayed by long trains when responding to an emergency.

Lastly, I am aware that this sale will cause our taxes to increase to pay for the necessary upgrades at the six crossings, and will significantly lower our property values.

It is clear that this sale will diminish the quality of life for thousands of people throughout the Midwest United States, and I ask that you use your authority to disapprove this sale.

Thank you for giving this matter your immediate attention

Sincerely, *Mr. & Mrs. Gregory P. Harker*
10457 PENNY LN
FRANKFORT, IL 60423