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LAURA E. ROGERS
50 MEADOWBROOK LANE
LAKE ZURICH, IL 60047

September 3, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball :

As a homeowner in Lake Zurich, Illinois, I am writing to oppose the acquisition of EJ & E Railroad by Canadian National Railroad (CN). I have requested that my federal representatives support H.R. 6707 which will protect communities from the egregious actions of CN. I am writing to you to implore you to stop this acquisition.

I am concerned that this acquisition will subject my community and all of the communities along this rail line to unacceptable safety hazards, noise and vibrations, and traffic congestion. For these reasons, residents can reasonably expect that this acquisition will devalue their homes and property and decrease their quality of life.

As a new parent I am most concerned about the safety hazards posed by this acquisition. Increased rail traffic will increase the risk of accidents involving pedestrians exponentially, especially considering the proximity of the rail line in question to our high school and a grade school. The acquisition does not allow for sufficient plans for pedestrian walkways or safety barriers. The CN agreement does not provide for the additional risks to our community due to increased hazardous material transportation either. Our local firefighters, EMTs, and police should be made aware of the materials passing through our community and should be trained to respond appropriately to contain any spills, mitigate environmental and property risks, and evacuate residents safely if necessary. CN has not promised to notify communities when hazardous materials are being transported through the community and has not allowed for funds to train our emergency responders. This puts us all at great risk.

The increase in noise and vibration caused by the increased rail traffic is also a concern for me. Our community is a quiet zone and the noise from current train traffic is negligible. The CN acquisition has not included an agreement to maintain the quiet zone and install noise and vibration buffers. Our residents

purchased homes in a quiet zone after careful consideration. It is unfair to ignore the quiet zone without village or resident approval.

Lastly, the CN acquisition will result in increased traffic congestion due to the increased rail usage. The rails in question bisect our town and the expected traffic snarls will bring our downtown area to a halt. This is not merely an inconvenience; it will result in a loss of income for the small businesses in our downtown area. In addition, our community has already lost tax revenue and potential jobs because a development deal was canceled when the developer became concerned about the increase in noise and traffic that this acquisition will bring.

Before anyone is hurt, before a serious hazardous material spill, and before our communities suffer an economic loss and property devaluation I am asking that you take the time to address these concerns. I believe that after careful consideration of the terms of this agreement you will understand that the only reasonable action is to stop this acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura E. Rogers". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'E'.

Laura Rogers