



BIG CITY ACCESS

SMALL TOWN CHARM

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Jim Ryan
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 18, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As Police Chief of the Village of Forest Park, I am writing to detail the positive impact of reducing freight traffic on the lives and safety of the residents of our community and the communities surrounding Forest Park.

As a result of the freight traffic, there are times that the Village of Forest Park must reroute our first responders or rely upon neighboring communities to respond to emergency calls.

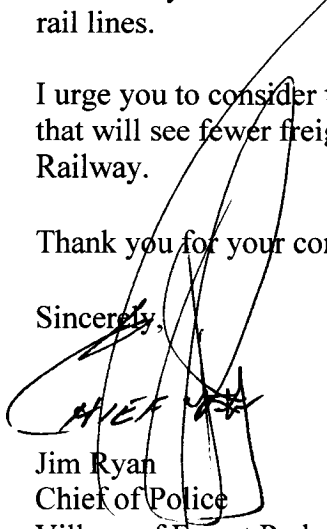
When our Police Officers respond to emergency calls for assistance, depending on the geographic location of the incident, we must determine whether freight trains are blocking the quickest means in which to travel. Seconds seem like minutes, even hours to victims of crimes and every second counts when trying to save lives and apprehend offenders. Blocked grade crossing can compromise our efforts.

In addition, fewer freight trains mean less noise and congestion in our community and fewer opportunities for children to find their way onto busy rail lines.

I urge you to consider the improved safety on the residents of the communities that will see fewer freight trains and approve the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jim Ryan
Chief of Police
Village of Forest Park