

August 22, 2008

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

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

I am a disabled senior citizen who is very concerned about the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National Railway and how it will affect my community in Frankfort, IL. Of course Representative Lipinski is backing the controversial sale. He and other Cook county representatives think this is a great idea. The trains will be rerouted from their congested rail lines leading in and out of Chicago. It appears they will be getting rid of their problem and transferring it to all the suburban communities through which this railroad runs. This is good for Chicago. This is not good for Frankfort or New Lenox, Matteson & Chicago Heights, etc.

I am opposed to this acquisition for many reasons. There are serious safety and environmental issues in addition to the economic implications that will most definitely trickle down to homeowners who are already paying much higher property taxes than Cook county. I pay over \$12,0000. The closest hospitals in emergency situations are St Joseph's and Silver Cross which is a major problem now. Adding additional time for crossing or stopped trains could very well mean arriving too late. People with breathing/heart problems will most definitely have to deal with more pollution & soot from the increased train traffic. They will not, however, be able to get to the hospital in a timely manner. An increase from six to twenty-eight trains per day is just not acceptable. Larawy Road at Wolf which is the exit from my development is a 2-lane Highway is oftentimes congested with backed up traffic now. This means our roads are quite congested as it is now.

We all care about the communities we live in. We all care about the safety of our children and grandchildren, the environment in which we live, and economic implications that will effect our lives and lifestyles. Does it always have to be about money with total disregard for people. With the current economic turndown, people can barely provide for their families and pay their mortgage and property tax. Every week gas & groceries go higher & higher. Restaurants are barely surviving because people cannot afford to eat out so spend more time at home. Senior citizens have to spend more & more for their medications and monthly social security & pension checks no longer take them through the month. We cannot afford to pay for anything else. New schools, teachers' contracts and soon to be issues with gas for the buses to transport children to and from school will soon have a greater impact on our communities and property taxes as well. We already pay very high property taxes in our community.

It is imperative that your Board rethink this merger and say "NO". We don't want the Canadian national Railway to take over the EJ&E Railroad. This cannot be allowed to happen!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jerome H. Trela".

Jerome H. Trela
11452 Merritton Ct
Frankfort, IL 60423