

13885

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Docket #: - - -

Subject: * CN Acquisition of EJ&E Railway
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Message: Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing this email regarding my concerns of the overall impact of the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad. It is my understanding that CN would like to use the EJ&E railway as a "bypass" around the congested rail lines of Chicago's inner ring suburbs and is seeking the Federal Surface Transportation Board ("STB") approval to do so. CN admittedly estimates that over the next three years, rail traffic will increase from an average of 16 trains per day currently to an average of 42 trains per day. CN also admits that their freight trains will run up to 10,000 feet in length, or nearly 2 miles in length. I consider these facts alone are good reason to oppose the proposed acquisition for the following reasons:

1. There will be significant vehicle delays at railroad crossing on our already congested roads while these miles long trains pass by at an enormously increased rate.
2. The safety of the crossings is affected in that emergency response times will worsen as well as the increase in noise, vibrations, and pollution as the trains pass through our community.
3. Neighboring cities and villages that use our roads for their commutes to and from work, school and other activities will be affected as well.

I have not seen any specific proposal from CN that deals with a solution to the above problems caused by their proposed plans. I would like to see plans for CN agreeing to build numerous overpasses within the community of Aurora and the other neighboring communities along the line to alleviate the problems caused by the increased length of the trains and increased frequency of their crossing through Aurora and other neighboring communities. Unless CN is willing to incur the cost of fixing the problems caused by their plan, their plan of acquisition should not be approved by the STB.

Donald B. Fields