

August 27, 2008

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

Attn: Environmental Filing, STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

As a resident of Hawthorn Woods I would like to state my strong opposition to the Canadian National Rail Road's acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Road. This acquisition will destroy the local environment and ruin the economy of our communities. The State of Illinois and the Chicago metropolitan area can ill afford the negative consequences of this transaction.

The Canadian National has expressed no sincere interest in the environmental and economic needs of the Illinois communities that will be impacted by their operations. In fact, they have been less than cooperative with our local Lake Zurich officials.

In reviewing the EIS released by the STB, there is just cause for much alarm by all residents, businesses and industries paying property taxes in Lake Zurich. CN should not be allowed to expedite the approval and acquisition processes in advance of the upcoming Presidential inauguration. This matter is of such importance that it should be reviewed by the newly appointed STB members who will be in office to face the consequences of their decision.

As a resident taxpayer, I strongly oppose this acquisition. My specific reasons are spelled out below:

- Disruptions to various businesses, negative impact on property values and hesitancy to build will impair realization of current and future plans within Lake Zurich's Downtown redevelopment area.
- Additional delays from a 400% increase in train traffic will negatively impact public, vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- Average train lengths of 10,000 feet will block our at-grade crossings and all major arterial roads bringing traffic through downtown to a standstill. One train could block both our major E-W thoroughfares in Hawthorn Woods.
- The added delay will increase emergency response times resulting in unnecessary loss of life.
- My local school system, Community School District 95 buses cross the Village's at-grade crossings 233 times per day, which means an increase in train/school bus conflicts.

- My sons's school, Lake Zurich High School directly abuts the existing tracks thereby presenting a hazard to students who cross the tracks despite the danger and the warnings.
- This transaction will seriously jeopardize the proposed STAR Line's viability to relieve the region's traffic congestion and air quality.
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In closing, I would encourage the STB to REJECT the Canadian National Rail Road acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Road given the catastrophic impact it will have on our schools, and Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich and all of the affected communities. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Nelson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn Nelson
217 North Trail
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047
(847) 438-3081