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**RON GAJ
45 ROSEWOOD DRIVE
HAWTHORN WOODS, ILLINOIS 60047-7729**

September 10, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance **Docket No. 35087**
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

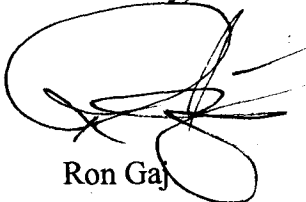
As a long time resident of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, I would like to voice my opinion to you and your board regarding the efforts of the Canadian National Railroad (CN) to purchase the EJ&E Railroad here in Northern Illinois.

My wife and I live on the opposite side of the EJ&E track from our fire and emergency rescue center. The impact of having freight trains going over this line on an hourly basis would be devastating to us and all the residents in this area. For emergency vehicles to reach us during a freight train blockage it would add four (4) miles of travel distance to our area. Since the current distance is two (2) miles, we would realize a tripling of distance for emergency response. Now, take this scenario and play it over and over again in all the towns and villages that border the EJ&E, and you can see that this is not a workable design.

CN has stated that they need the EJ&E line to off set the traffic congestion that currently exists on their lines that pass through the Chicago Area. You and I would have to of just fallen off the back of a watermelon truck to believe that. CN needs the EJ&E line for growth. Just take a look at their historical performance in tonnage shipped and revenues earned. This company is not expanding and modernizing their port facilities in British Columbia because they prefer stagnant growth. This is a company on the move – literally. We the citizens along the EJ&E should not be subjected to a reduced quality of life for the profits of a foreign corporation.

In advance, I want to thank you and all of your board members for taking this all into consideration and for supporting the citizens along the EJ&E.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Gaj', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

Ron Gaj