

July 23, 2008

Senator Barack Obama
713 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Canadian National Railway Purchase of the EJ&E

Dear Senator Obama

As a resident of a community that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if Canadian National Railway (CN) is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, I ask that you do everything in your power to stop this deal before it is too late.

While I understand that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) is charged with the review and approval process for transactions of this type, it is my understanding that the STB has almost no history of denying railroad applications as its mandate is to foster rail commerce – not protect communities from the actions of the railroads.

Thank you for all the work you've done to understand the significant issues related to public safety, environment, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and economic losses that are not be adequately dealt with by the Canadian National Railway. I appreciate your public opposition of this transaction and ask that you step in as our federal elected representatives and take whatever action necessary in order to prevent a transaction that will devastate the economic viability and livability of your congressional districts.

In addition to my concerns about the impacts of this transaction, I would also ask that you help us to ensure that the following two issues are fully and adequately addressed:

- CN's unwillingness to provide freight traffic projections beyond three years (a cut off that precedes the Phase 2 expansion of the major new port served by CN – the Port of Prince Rupert in western Canada). CN needs to provide capacity data and operational projections to 2020 at the very least. If the American Association of Railroads can demand taxpayer investments in rail infrastructure to accommodate a projected growth in rail freight of 88% by 2035, it is inconceivable that the CN cannot quantify its own long range business projections involving the EJ&E.
- Due to the significance of the potential impacts to our communities and region, we must ask for a longer review period than 45 days to respond to the DEIS. Communities need 120 days for a due diligence review that can adequately examine the data used to arrive at the conclusions and to respond to the study's findings.

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Canadian National says this transaction will benefit the region. I fail to see how this is the case and trust that you will represent your constituents' interests and do everything in your power to stop this acquisition.

Additional Comments:

Sincerely,

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