

VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW
BRIDGEVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

16085

7500 SOUTH OKETO AVENUE
BRIDGEVIEW, ILLINOIS 60455
708-924-8250 • FAX: 708-924-8202

Thursday, September 11, 2008

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

*Canadian National Railway Co, et al. - Control - EJ&E
West Company, STB Finance Docket No. 35087*

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball,

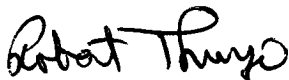
I am writing this letter regarding the proposal by Canadian National Railway Company (CN) to acquire control over the EJ&E West Company (EJ&E). Not only will this transaction improve rail service through the Chicago metropolitan area by reducing overall congestion and unnecessary air and noise pollution, but the lives of all citizens in the Village of Bridgeview will also greatly improve.

The Fire Department of Bridgeview proudly serves all 15,355 residents, and the trains traveling through Bridgeview have plagued these residents for years. As Fire Chief of Bridgeview, I am especially pleased that this proposal would reduce the traffic congestion and backup caused by trains, therefore ensuring that the Fire Department of Bridgeview will be able to respond to emergencies in a shorter amount of time. In Bridgeview alone, our train crossings will see approximately 10 fewer trains per day.

This decision impacts the residents of the entire Chicago region, however, not only Bridgeview. More than 60 communities throughout the Chicago metropolitan area will be affected by this decision. The decrease in train traffic in these communities will cause a decrease in train accidents on the rail lines, reducing overall safety risks for more than 4.1 million people.

I am therefore requesting that my aforementioned opinions be included relative to the Board's consideration of the DEIS. The approval of this transaction is vital to the safety and quality of life of our citizens. I ask that the Board completes its environmental review process expeditiously, so the citizens of Bridgeview can start benefitting from CN's acquisition of the EJ&E. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Thurzo
Fire Chief, Village of Bridgeview
(708) 924-8250