

Johnson-Ball

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Docket #: -35087 --

Subject: * STB Finance Docket 35087
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 Message:

I cannot begin to express what a great impact the CN Railroad's purchase of the EJE Railroad would have on me and my family personally. I'm sure you have already heard numerous arguments from the community and various Emergency agencies, Fire, Police, and hospitals that need to cross these intersections in order to save lives or provide emergency medical relief to someone in desperate need of help that would otherwise be delayed while waiting for a long freight train to cross. And if that freight train carries hazardous materials, the impact increases exponentially. Those are valid concerns and I agree with them. My concerns are more of a personal nature. I worry about my son, who currently is in high school and may not always use his best judgement when dealing with these crossing trains. Kids, during their teenage years can do some pretty stupid things. If they get stuck several times waiting for one these trains to pass by for several minutes or at times hours, because the train is stuck at an interaction, the next time they see a long freight train approaching they may choose to try to beat it out. Not the the best choice, but teenagers as well as some adults have been known not to make the best choices at such times. And then such a tragic occurrence could exacerbate an already unfortunate occurrence. Now emergency vehicles will not be able to get through. Traffic will be tied up for hours. People will miss appointments, not get home on time, and on and on.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJE EIS - FD-35087

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I gave to cross the EJE railroad crossing currently on a daily basis every morning and evening. A trip that would normally take me approximately 10 minutes lasts anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes depending on traffic and weather conditions during these rush hours. So its already prety bad. Rt. 59 is the only possible road I can take, and that road is simply a parking lot in the morning. If you add additional delays due to a freight trains crossings, I can't begin to tell how frustrating and painful that commute will be. And if there's an accident at that crossing because someone is trying to beat out a freight train to make an important commitment or a meeting, well I think to get the idea. The areas that are effected by the EJE crossings in the Barrington area are already extremely congested, Adding more congestion is just unthinkable. The lives and the financial impact to individuals and businesses in these areas will be tremendous.

Please take my comments into your consideration when deciding on this acquisition of the CN Railroad. One railroads gain should not be thousands of peoples' losses. I love where I live, but I'm not sure I could continue living in this area if you approve this aquisition.

The negative impact of this purchase on me would just be to great. I would not choose to risk my family's lives in this manner. The environmental impacts would alone be great, but the financial impacts to people in the area also should considered. I'm sure our property values would be negatively affected as well.