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238 Gillick Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
September 9, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As I am unable to attend any of the public meetings held in suburbs distant from my home, here are my comments in writing.

First, the CN has deliberately added inconvenience to traffic on Route 12 in Des Plaines, by lengthening their freight trains. On one very long train I counted 23 very old rusted gondolas, empty, and useless. Was this intended to create a demand to move that traffic to the EJ&E beltline? When two very long freight trains are scheduled to cross Route 12 in sequence, in opposite directions, was this to increase demand to move that traffic to the EJ&E?

Most importantly, it is a mistake to sell our major assets. For a paltry \$300M we would be giving up control of our most valuable asset---the control of the means of moving U.S. goods and energy resources to the Midwest. Whether the materials are potash from Saskatchewan for our corn fields, or coal from Wyoming on a CP line to fuel our electricity generators, or manufactured goods from China funneled through the port of Prince Rupert---the U.S. must to be foresighted enough to maintain control over our vital rail lines.

Most urgent of all in the Chicago region, we must not permit the disruption of service to our Metra lines that bring thousands of workers to Chicago daily, and whose service will be disrupted by the CN's acquisition of the EJ&E.

We urge the Board to deny the purchase of this most vital rail link in the Midwest, the EJ&E beltline around Chicago..

Yours truly,

Elfriede Rieger

cc: Rep.Dan Lipinski