

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson- Ball,

I would like to respectfully submit a plea to you, to please turn down the CN proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railroad.

Our community of Frankfort, Illinois has six railroad crossings. If this purchase is approved it will have a profoundly devastating effect on our town. Our school buses must cross these tracks, which would effect the safety of our children and their getting to school on time. Ambulances and firefighters would be delayed so frequently and for such long periods of time, it would surely cost lives. The CN does not indicate that they plan any underpasses or overpasses to take care of this problem. It sounds as if they expect the taxpayers to foot the bill if they are necessary. Imagine the traffic that will be held up from all these trains; in our town three to four crossings could be blocked at one time, by their plan to use such long trains! and so frequently. The increase in rail traffic that they propose is probably only the beginning. If they are successful in their acquisition, they could add adjacent tracks and more trains. Nothing will stop them.

The noise will be terrible too. If one moves to the city, you expect noise; you know that it come with the territory. But when you choose to live away from the city, one of the reasons is to be in a more quiet and tranquil environment. I read that CN is planning about 28 trains a day (that is just for starters). That will mean almost nonstop train traffic.

Although it is not my major concern in this acquisition, it certainly is even more troubling to me that this is not even an American company. The benefit is to a foreign company and, from what I have read, it will even cost some American their jobs.

This acquisition will have an extremely negative logistical impact on so many communities; not to mention the environmental impact.

CN is a very large, billion dollar (foreign) company, that will benefit greatly at the expense of American taxpayer's dollars and their quality of life. They can afford to plan their railway traffic in less populated areas where it won't damage existing communities. It most likely would cost them more money to do it that way, but this is a cheap solution for them, at great cost to our communities.

Please, please don't approve of this acquisition.

Thank you for reading this letter and, hopefully, for your consideration of our plea.

Respectfully,
Margaret Bartels