

Ms. P. Johnson-Ball

Ms. Victoria Rutson – Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

July 18, 2008

Subject: STB Docket # 35087 – Proposed purchase of EJ&E Rail system by Canadian National

Dear Ms. Rutson: */ Ms. Johnson-Ball:*

We are writing you today to voice our opposition in the strongest terms and ask that you take whatever actions (legally) possible to block the subject purchase. As a 55 year resident of Lake County and a 21 year resident of Hawthorn Woods, IL, we have every reason to oppose this purchase. This acquisition should be blocked by every available agency at every level within our county, our state and at the federal level.

As a former employee of a locally prominent civil engineering firm, I can say with some technical experience and personal conviction that the current infrastructure and Lake County road systems are significantly inadequate to handle the current traffic demands. The increase in rail traffic, that would result from the subject purchase, would have a significant negative impact on our current traffic conditions, which are already strained. There are not enough bridges and lanes to handle daily traffic now and the increase in (Canadian National) rail traffic would only exacerbate an already difficult situation. These inevitable rail related traffic delays would also have a negative impact upon the ability of emergency equipment and personnel to respond, as required, to a growing population. The negative impact from the obvious increase in noise and air pollution is also of concern. In short, there are a multitude of sound, logical reasons to oppose this purchase.

The Canadian National Rail Company can find other means to move their traffic utilizing other rail lines in place throughout the multi-county, Chicago Metro area. The EJ&E Rail network could be better utilized to handle the growing need for commuter rail traffic. Let's instead set aside this asset to be developed to that end. The regions in question cannot assimilate the noise and air pollution nor can we handle the traffic problems already upon us. If you doubt the seriousness of our current Lake County traffic issues, that does not yet have the impact of a proposed Canadian National rail traffic component, please fly to Chicago and travel to our area, via private auto, to see how serious our traffic situation really is today. Please oppose this purchase.

Sincerely,



Steve & Molly Peterkort
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