

Eric and Erin Witek
30W230 Holyoke Ct.
Warrenville, IL 60555
September 2, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As residents of the city of Warrenville for 3 ½ years, we have been paying close attention to the proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National (CN). We know that representatives from the City of Warrenville have met with CN representatives three times and conveyed resident concerns, particularly the concerns of those living near the tracks. It is my understanding that there will be hazardous waste traveling through our community as well as a significant increase in train traffic (over 70% initially increasing to 91% after the first three years).

The potential environmental impacts related to the transportation of hazardous materials are of great concern. There are numerous residents located immediately adjacent to the EJ&E Railroad line, including us, as well as an elementary school and a public park located less than one mile from the tracks. These households have also experienced years of vibrations and noise from existing train traffic. With such a proposed traffic increase, how will vibration and noise be mitigated and what safety measures will be put into place to ensure the safe transportation of hazardous materials?

We are also concerned about Warrenville's ongoing efforts towards establishing a quiet zone. Staff and elected officials have spent approximately three years working with EJ&E to establish this quiet zone. Will this transaction force the city to abandon this heavily supported initiative?

Additionally, how will CN accommodate the proposed STAR commuter rail Metra line that is needed to relieve traffic congestion on the busiest street through Warrenville, RT 59? How will the increase in vibration running through Fermi Lab affect the organization's ability to attract funding for scientific experiments? How will Fermi Lab's rich wildlife ecosystem be affected?

It is because of our concerns about safety, noise, environment and quality of life that we strongly oppose this transaction. I sincerely hope the Surface Transportation Board considers the severe and permanent impacts on local residents when evaluating this transaction. Should you require further information, please feel free to contact us at 630-393-2547.

Sincerely,

Eric and Erin Witek



Cc: Judy Biggert, U.S. Representative – 6262 South Route 83, Suite 305, Willowbrook, IL 60527
Bill Foster, U.S. Representative – 27 North River Street, Batavia, IL 60510