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January 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

My concerns over **Finance Docket No. 35087**, CN's acquisition of EJ&E rail lines, planned construction and increased operations in the suburbs west and south of Chicago include the following:

Construction impacts including visual quality, construction traffic and staging areas, water quality, hazardous materials and noise and vibration.

Land Use - Along the entire length of the alignment, schools, libraries, farmland, hospitals and recreational areas are used by residents crossing the tracks to get to and from these activity centers. The double tracking and frequent train activity would essentially introduce permanent features that would disrupt, divide, or isolate existing neighborhoods, communities, and land uses.

Noise and Vibration - There are sensitive receptors immediately adjacent to the right of way including hospitals, schools and residences. Of particular concern is the Peterson Elementary School near 103rd street in South Naperville.

Visual Impacts - new visual elements will be introduced including additional freight vehicles as well as sound and retaining walls.

Air quality - For many segments of the rail line, train traffic will be increasing by 10, 20 or 30 trains a day, indeed, the final number is unpredictable. The emissions from railroad operations as well as vehicle delays will clearly have a negative impact on air quality in a nonattainment area.

I understand that the board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the acquisition; I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Mimi Taso Theodorou

cc: Anne K. Quinlan, Esq., Acting Secretary

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35037

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