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August 25, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087

Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan,

I am a resident of Frankfort, Illinois who will be impacted by the CN purchase of EJ&E Railroad. I am writing to express my deep concern about the impact this sale will have on my community. CN's safety record combined with their reckless attitude indicate they believe they have no responsibility for the affect they have on the communities through which they operate. Their own representatives have admitted this sale is a detriment to the Illinois counties it affects, but particularly bad for Will County.

Today, communities, corporations and municipalities are focused more than ever on preserving the environment and acknowledging our footprint. This footprint is the legacy that each of us leaves behind with every decision we make and every action we take. CN does not share the basic values that foster safety, integrity, respect and responsibility that are the minimum standards that everyone is held to.

From environmental issues that will further compromise air quality caused by the 723,442 gallons of increased fuel burned by idling trains and idling cars and trucks waiting on those trains, to the increased noise and vibration that will have a negative impact on our quality of life and on the forest preserves nearby, to the over 1.65 billion dollar economic impact as a result of jobs that will be lost in our region, and the mitigation costs we may be forced to absorb, **this transaction has demonstrated no social, environmental or economic benefits to this region.**

For the past five years, we have gone to great lengths to keep our country safe against terrorists that fly planes into tall buildings. What are we doing to protect ourselves against the threat of hazardous materials carried by reckless foreign-owned companies that barrel across our lands?

The CN trains and their record of avoidable tragedies have the potential to create more devastation impacting all of us for generations to come.

I understand that the EJ&E tracks in Frankfort have not received major repairs in over 25 years. That's one reason the experienced engineers go so slowly through Frankfort. Now the Canadian National is proposing to **increase the number of trains by over 400%**, the number of **tonnage by over 500%**, and the amount of **hazardous material by over 600%**. **This is only where they intend to start.**

I wonder if the authors of your Draft Environmental Impact Statement have read the report to the Canadian House of Commons from the Standing Committee on Transport that severely criticizes the safety record of the Canadian National Railway. Perhaps the most alarming comment in the report is that by 2008, the CN had only implemented one out of the five safety measures it was ordered to implement by the Canadian government back in 2001. If they won't implement safety measures for their own government, why should we believe that they will show a concern for safety when operating in the United States? In fact Canadian National employees are quoted in the report as saying that they work in a "culture of fear," which affects safety.

Please make sure that the final Environmental Impact Study takes the safety record of the CN into consideration. We are counting on you to help avoid a tragedy in our community.

Respectfully,



Jennifer L. Fanning