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Naperville

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

A George Pradel

January 28, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, Southwest
Washington D C 20423

Attn Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing,
STB Finance Docket #35087

Re Opposition of the Acquisition by the City of Naperville IL

Dear Ms Johnson-Ball

The City of Naperville, Illinois strongly opposes the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by the Canadian National (CN) Railroad as proposed in the STB Finance Docket #35087. If this acquisition is approved, it will have a dramatic negative effect on not only our community but on several communities that surround us as well. As we have met with other government entities including Aurora, DuPage County, Plainfield, and Will County, every one has serious concerns about the impacts of this transaction.

The City of Naperville's concerns include the over three-fold increase in trains using these tracks every day. This increase will cause unacceptable traffic congestion due to the lack of necessary infrastructure to handle these projected trains along the EJ&E line. Naperville already has the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) train line running through it in an east-west direction. Although the BNSF carries even more train traffic than that projected by the CN, the BNSF has the necessary grade separations and infrastructure to support those trains. The Cities of Naperville and Aurora have been planning for grade separation improvements for North Aurora Road, 95th Street, and 111th Street in the next 15-20 years. The increase in train traffic on the corridor requires the implementation of these projects to be accelerated.

The Chicago suburbs enjoy commuter rail service to Chicago through Metra. Metra has been studying a new suburb to suburb commuter line using the existing EJ&E tracks called the STAR Line. The STAR Line has great potential because of its ability to replace workday vehicular commutes along with its service to O'Hare International Airport. The City of Naperville has already invested over \$8 million dollars purchasing property at strategic locations to serve as future STAR Line train stations. The acquisition by the CN has the ability to kill the entire STAR Line proposal due to the CN's insistence that the commuter line operate on a separate track.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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HDR

January 28, 2008

Re Opposition of the Acquisition by the City of Naperville, IL.

The Cities of Naperville, Aurora, and Warrenville have been working together along with the ICC and FRA to establish a railroad quiet zone through our communities similar to what the Village of Plainfield recently enacted just south of us. The only outstanding improvements are the installation of continuous warning devices at two crossings which we believed the EJ&E would be completing this year. This acquisition cannot delay our schedule or add to our cost of this necessary improvement for our residents along the corridor.

While I understand that this transaction has its benefits, you must take the detrimental effects on communities and the individual property owners into consideration when making your decision. Please do not approve the acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by the CN. I would be very happy to meet with you and discuss our community's concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A. George Pradel

A. George Pradel

Mayor

c Robert Marshall
Marcie Schatz
Bill Novack
Steve Cope

Dear Ms. Johnson - Ball,

*I completely concur with the plea
and the conclusion of this letter. Please
do not approve the acquisition of the
EJ&E railroad by the CN.*

Thank you.

Yours very truly

Allen A. Prokammer

Resident Naperville 45 years

*Former Illinois election judge
over 30 years.*