

To: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

I am opposed to the plan to allow CN to purchase the EJ&E and greatly increase the number of freight trains daily on this line because

1. CN is refusing to provide funds for the elimination of 5 grade crossings in New Lenox Township, and.
2. Insufficient study has been done on the impact
on surface transportation,
on the environment,
on the funding local governmental units already with limited resources
will be forced to expend, and
3. Controls on the number of tracks, trains per day, length of trains, noise, air pollution, etc. seem to be nonexistent.

As a retired teacher I am extremely concerned that the number of trains initially will be more than quadruple what is now passing within close proximity to a high school, and three buildings housing students K-6. Of course, many of the school buses will be trying to pass over those 5 grade crossings!

While the I-355 connection of Interstates was planned, numerous impact studies were undertaken, adjustments made, and input was received from all segments of the community. This connection has proved to be a benefit to our community and to those traveling the interstate highway system.

This drastic change that CN proposes should receive the same careful study and serious changes made to the plan before any implementation takes place.


Diane Batson
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Sept 29, 2008