

September 11, 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 a senior resident of New Lenox, a community that will be negatively impacted with the increased number of trains being proposed with the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by the CN railroad, I would like to express my concerns. I understand that the number of trains may exceed 30 trains in the future and that these trains may extend 3 miles in length causing over 20 minute crossing delays.

I strongly believe that the only people coming out on top here is the CN railroad. The cost for infrastructure improvements (grade separation) could top the one billion dollars. CN seems to think the U.S. citizens should pay for 95% of this. Neither the state of Illinois or the federal government has the funds to foot this bill.

I'm retiring soon, my nest egg is my home, housing values in New Lenox will plummet in an already stressed market.

Our air quality will decrease, and noise pollution will increase.

CN has said Cook County will benefit from a reduction in rail traffic. The projection of increased rail traffic in the future makes this statement a fallacy since the vacated tracks will soon after be over the lines.

Why should U.S. citizens foot the bill for a foreign country making record profits to expand further into the U.S.

Robert L. Meredith

