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VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

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NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS 60451

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September 15, 2008

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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

As a trustee for the Village of New Lenox Board and as a resident of the Village of New Lenox, I ask that you deny Canadian National's request to purchase the E J & E Railroad. Our community would be negatively impacted by this sale and the safety and well-being of all of its residents would be in jeopardy.

The E J & E Railroad runs through the middle of New Lenox. The Police Department, Village Hall, Park District, Library and most services including access to I-80 and I-355 are on the north side of town. Silver Cross Hospital and Provena St. James Hospital are both accessed by roads on the north side of town. The southern half of the community houses residents in over seven subdivisions. The acquisition of these tracks by Canadian National will divide the community in half causing severe safety issues. Lives in our community would be endangered.

The impact of this sale to Canadian National would adversely affect our emergency services. The thought of that is frightening as the Village Board tries to ensure safety of all its' residents. Canadian National trains could block all 5 of our major north-south roadways. I hope that the STB will take into consideration that a life may be lost because emergency equipment cannot reach its destination due to a rail crossing being blocked for precious life-saving minutes. I implore you to protect the citizens of New Lenox and not allow this sale to proceed.

There are many schools within the vicinity of the railroad tracks. Extra trains hauling hazardous materials and school children are not a good mix. The idea of an accident with so many children in the area is unacceptable to me and should be to STB. The additional time children would have to spend on school buses to access their classes is another reason why Canadian National should be told "no sale".

The citizens of New Lenox need your help. They have come to the Village Board asking our assistance in stopping this sale. I am hoping that your committee will make the right choice and **VOTE NO FOR CANADIAN NATIONAL!!**

Sincerely,

David Butterfield, Village of New Lenox Trustee
1 Veterans Parkway
New Lenox IL 60451



TREE CITY USA