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Johnson - Bull

February 4, 2008

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Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Surface Transportation Board
STB Docket Number 35087

Gentlemen,

I am writing to express my opposition to the sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company to the Canadian National Railway Company.

My family and I have been living in the community of Aurora for the last 18 years. Over that time, we have seen tremendous growth. Our roads haven't kept up with the volume of traffic. My once 45 minute commute to work has grown to an hour and fifteen minutes and longer on a regular basis. It's not uncommon for my commute to be an hour and a half. Unfortunately, I have to cross the EJ&E railroad tracks to and from my way to work. I fear increased delays because of the larger volume of train traffic. There are two under/overpasses on my way to work to avoid the tracks, but that would mean traveling on route 59 to Highway 88 on my way to work. To travel the 5 miles I would need to on route 59 could presently take as long as 20 - 30 minutes. This will go up with the sale of the railroad.

There is a current high school that has to transport busses across this rail road track and another being built. Those schools don't need the increased train traffic.

There is a hospital west of the tracks and ambulance and emergency traffic will be adversely impacted by the sale.

There is talk of trying to alleviate the traffic problems in our community by building a commuter transportation system on the EJ&E railroad tracks (the STAR Line). This also will be adversely affected by the sale.

There are numerous residences along the track routes that will have to deal with increased noise and safety problems.

There have been fatalities on Ogden Avenue where the trains currently cross.

I really don't see any benefit to the communities along the train routes. All the impact is negative. I oppose this sale and would hope that you side with the communities.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Damore