

September 18, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball and the Surface Transportation Board:

I write to you as a Licensed Professional Environmental Engineer in the State of Illinois, an American Board of Industrial Hygiene Certified Industrial Hygienist, and a Professional Board of Certified Safety Professionals Certified Safety Professional. I have over 35 years of experience dealing with health, safety and environmental matters. My comments reflect my own opinions and not necessarily those of the fore mentioned entities.

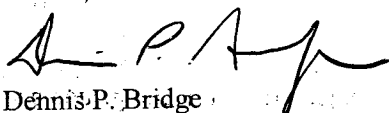
I have been a resident of Deer Park, Illinois for 14 years. I believe that the proposed purchase of the E J & E railroad (EJ) by Canadian National Railroad (CN) poses a serious threat to the safety and general welfare of the citizens of Deer Park and nearby communities. This purchase by the CN will increase rail traffic through our area by 400% with much longer freight trains, up to two miles long, on these tracks.

In view of this and based on many career experiences over the past 35 years, my concern for the Deer Park environment as well as the environment of our surrounding communities and the health and safety of all of our citizens is profound.

Over the years as an employee of several Fortune 500 corporations as well as in my current role as a consultant, I have repeatedly heard the corporate claim: "We will never have an accident involving a chemical spill/chemical cloud release." Well, invariably such events have happened and will continue to happen. In the case of the CN takeover with its incredible increase in train traffic and the significantly increased toxic chemical loadings on those trains, this takeover increases the potential for a catastrophic train mishap of proportions unheard of in Greater Chicago. This is especially likely in view of the very limited system upgrades proposed by CN together with CN's notably poor safety record per a report recently released by the Standing Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities on Rail Safety in Canada.

I urge you to consider the well being of the people you serve who reside along the proposed path of the CN takeover as well as the well being of our environment. Do not let a foreign entity such as CN with its large lobbying budget and obvious lack of concern for the citizens it intends to impact with this takeover pose a significant threat to our environment and the health and safety of our citizens. Please remember, a catastrophic event is likely to occur. You and your colleagues are in a position to exert significant influence in deciding this matter. Hopefully, you will take my words and experience to heart and reject CN's bid to takeover the EJ.

Sincerely,



Dennis P. Bridge
23675 Hedgeworth Ct
Deer Park, IL 60010