

August 25, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

To the Surface Transportation Board:

We are 8 year residents of the Pheasant Run Townhouse community, located in Frankfort, IL, and have many concerns about the proposed acquisition of the EJ& E Railroad for many reasons- some of which I will mention in this correspondence. We are asking that this sale NOT be allowed to go through, respectively before changes to our community can not be undone.

This community has drawn many families, old and young for the quiet and charm of an older, safer time and that is in danger of drastic changes if the said proposal goes through. Every citizen has been paying and contributing to this town's fundamental quaintness by their taxes each year. As a avid bike rider, and given the increased train traffic on the EJ&E there is an increased risk for pedestrian and bicycle accidents, in addition to train vs. car collisions, and yes the total number of train accidents will increase with this project as the amount of trains will be significantly increased with heavier traffic on the train tracks. As our subdivision has a large number or senior citizens living within it, the concern of fire and emergency medical services will experience "substantial effects" including delayed response times. Who will be responsible for potential deaths due to these delayed response times? Would you like that to happen to one of your family members, or possibly yourself? The EIS indicated that the EJ&E line will see an increase in travel patterns, travel times, and accessibility in many communities that will be negatively impacted. Residential property values will likely decrease for many homes, air pollution will increase for all with 639,442 gallons of diesel fuel and 84,000 gallons of gasoline that will be wasted annually by cars stuck at the crossings by 2015. Can this world afford to let this happen? With 18 forest preserves being negatively impacted from this proposed sale as well, as more than 30 parks in close proximity to the EJ&E experiencing increased noise levels and decreased air quality, I wonder if your children or grandchildren would benefit from those issues.

In closing, we believe that these and other reasons have enough bearing to make each and member of the STB take a serious look again at the proposal and make the right choice for each taxpaying citizen from every town that is affected. Our tax dollars should be used for improvements to our community in a positive way, NOT to fund CN'S proposed work that they should be paying for. They will be the ones making the money not the taxpayers.

After hearing and reading information regarding this devastating acquisition, we want to protect our quality of life where we live, and in other towns along the proposed route as well.

Thank you for your time with this matter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diane L. Johnson

Mr. Kenneth D. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth D. Johnson