

To: Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to communicate my concerns about the proposed purchase of the EJ&E tracks by Canadian National. My family crosses the tracks approximately 4 to 6 times a week on both Montgomery Road and Rt. 34, going to church, as an alternate route to work and shopping. I understand that the purchase will improve the movement of goods throughout the Chicagoland area; however, I think that ~~instead~~ of just shifting the inconvenience, misery and danger from its present area to a new one, Canadian National should be required to pay for 85% of all costs of grade separations of at least half the intersections, including all intersections identified by emergency service organizations as vital to their response times. That the Surface Transportation Board is not required to look at safety or the environment in deals like the CN proposal is almost inconceivable to me. It's as if the Board were still operating in the 19th century! This needs to be changed now and definitely for the future. I also think that mitigation must be required as due diligence and as a normal and just cost of doing business. This is how most companies are expected to do business now, in the 21st century. Why on earth should Canadian National be exempt? I don't think it should be, and shame on the Board if this deal is allowed to go through without major mitigation, paid for from the pockets of Canadian National. They are buying these tracks as a money-making deal. Well, let them make a necessary investment in their new community! If the line won't make enough money to justify that investment, then maybe they will rethink the purchase. Better far to do that than to dump the burden on to the economically strapped tax-payers of this region, who will see absolutely no positive change from this, only noise, pollution, lost time, money, and life-altering delays from emergency responders. The Board has the power to approve or deny this deal, with or without new guidelines from Congress. Step into the 21st century, make a precedent, and do what is right for the region affected by this purchase. You will be glad you did.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laura Burk
Laura Burk

3867 Cherry Rd.

Oswego, IL 60543

(and family of 4)