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August 28, 2008

Vanessa Griffin
6 Enclave Way
Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to you in **extreme opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Line by Canadian National**. As an arm of my elected government, I know you will look at the big picture of this proposed acquisition and see that it must not be approved.

Like most of my fellow community members, I'm a reasonable person. I believe that our communities would not suffer terribly from a few more trains on our tracks, and if the CN deal constituted only moderate inconveniences in the form of short traffic delays, additional noise and vibration, we could grin and bear the changes.

Unfortunately, what Canadian National proposes is not a few more trains, as you well know.

This deal creates **immense public safety issues** that will absolutely impact each and every one of us by cutting us off from our kids' schools, our hospitals, our public safety personnel. After all, it's a bit more than inconvenient when your house burns to the ground while firefighters for whom you pay taxes wait for two miles of train to pass.

We are small residential communities, without many large thoroughfares as options for efficiently crossing tracks in multiple ways. In my community of Hawthorn Woods, we have two main east-west thoroughfares and both would be blocked simultaneously by just one of Canadian National's trains.

It is simply unconscionable—treasonous, even—that a private foreign corporation can create a master plan to line shareholders pockets and create an impressive dynasty for a few powerful Canadians, yet budget an insulting amount to ease the havoc their plan will wreak in American towns. Their plan shows a shameless disregard for our communities and our legitimate concerns.

And to throw salt in the wound, Canadian National representatives have treated our municipal leaders with utter disrespect and disregard, refusing to provide information to public safety officials and offering absolutely no assurances or compromises. Why should they? They're busy making serious money, partnering with Asian companies to continue to flood our country with cheap goods, further eroding the American manufacturing base at a time when we need to be creating jobs, not eliminating them.

Canadian National looks to you as their Rubber Stamp. And when it looks like they're facing resistance from American lawmakers, they begin playing games with our legitimate regulatory

process and threaten to use the American court system to help enrich their company, their shareholders, their board of directors, their CEO. To enrich a few wealthy Canadians.

You are part of my elected government, and you must look at this issue as a matter of national security. A Canadian Company with an abysmal safety record should not be allowed to use you.

Use you to steal American shipping business.

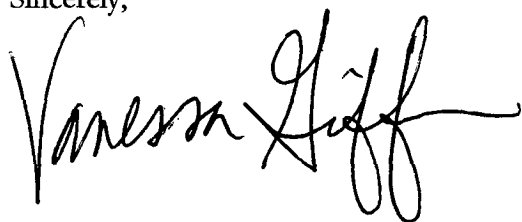
Use you to exacerbate the manufacturing crisis in this country.

Use you to endanger our communities.

Canadian National has a right to do business. But they do not have a right to do business that harms me, my children and my peaceful community.

You serve American citizens, not corporate powerbrokers. I know you'll do the right thing and stop this transaction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanessa Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Vanessa Griffin