

January 25, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Ms. Johnson-Ball;

I am writing in response to the meeting informing local residents of the Canadian National Railway Company acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company. I stand beside my fellow community members when I say my concerns with this acquisition lie mainly with the safety issues surrounding the residents of Frankfort and nearby communities. The massive increase in the number of trains rolling through our towns brings with it numerous safety and health factors.

Aside from the obvious noise pollution, which makes it difficult to enjoy an afternoon outdoors with family and friends and nearly impossible to conduct business via telephone during open window months, there also lies the problem of air pollution.

With the many health issue that arise today based on a variety of things from what we eat to what we breathe (Thank you Illinois for the statewide smoking ban.), the 30-something trains a day expected with this acquisition are sure to be releasing damaging pollutants into our air every hour of every day.

Active families in our community enjoy time outdoors whether it is biking, walking or visiting with neighbors. The addition of the CN Railway trains traveling through Frankfort will only hurt the quality of living in a town where, as a lifelong resident, I am among many who enjoy life outdoors in any season.

What happens when emergency vehicles are delayed arriving to an accident or fire due to a long, slow moving, train carrying hazardous material?

The health issues aren't the only safety concerns. With the additional trains carrying extra heavy, hazardous loads, the nearby homes shake and rattle as each train rolls by. This will cause structural damage to homes causing homeowners more problems and costing them their hard-earned dollars in repairs; not to mention the devaluation of their property while property taxes continue to rise.

With the constant shaking and rumbling of the ground as trains pass through, what happens when the high tension wires, telephone poles and streetlights loosen and threaten to fall? What will happen to Commonwealth Edison's new electrical sub-station that sits next to the train tracks in Frankfort?

The CN Railway acquisition of EJ&E Railway Company certainly is NOT for the betterment of our community. If anything, it may be the downfall of a wonderful "Town with 1890's Charm".

I thank you for your time.
Sincerely,



Joanna Plummer
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