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

Re: STB Finance Dock No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Bull:

I am writing to express my sincere concern and dismay with the proposal of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railroad ("EJE") by Canadian National Railway ("CNR").

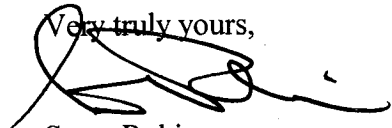
I reside approximately ½ mile from one of the EJE crossings located in Hawthorn Woods, Illinois. All emergency units (fire, police, medical) are west of the EJ&E crossings. As a result, based on information that CNR has made available, 24-25 trains per day could stretch for over two miles long at these crossings, whereas currently 6-8 trains of shorter length currently use the trackage. The safety issues in potential emergency response delays to both myself and my neighbors are overwhelming as the length of the trains would have both crossings stopped at the same time.

I am not even going to address in my letter to you the environmental impact of traffic backing up for miles on Old McHenry and Gilmer Roads, two heavily used roads during rush hour times, while these monster trains cross. The air pollution and adverse effect to the natural wooded surroundings cannot be measured.

Unless CNR agrees to spend the money necessary to build underpasses at these intersections, I urge you to reject their application to acquire the EJE. To allow this transaction to proceed without substantial mitigation would be unconscionable and truly against the public interest when CNR already has trackage available to them in more industrial areas of the Chicago metro region.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Very truly yours,



Steve Rubin