

September 10, 2008

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I live in Mokena, Illinois, a growing town between Joliet, Illinois and Chicago, Illinois. I live across the street from some of the proposed tracks that are under consideration for sale to Canadian National. Most of the trains right now are commuter trains and go by quickly. The railroad crossings near my home are rarely tied up for more than a few minutes at the crossings right now. There are some freight trains but they usually are not very long. There is some noise from the trains right now but not excessive. I do work at home as a medical transcriptionist where I listen to recorded voices of doctors and type the medical reports for a hospital. I do appreciate that my town is relatively quiet because when the trains do go by, I need to pause at times from my work until the whistle noise and train noise passes. With the proposed sale to Canadian National they are conservatively talking about the trains going from 6 to 28 times a day. Now that is a tremendous increase in the noise level in the span of a day. It will definitely affect my ability to work from my home.

I am worried too that such an increase in the train traffic will affect my ability and my children's ability to get across the tracks when needed to get to medical care, work, school, etc. They are saying these trains will tie up the crossings for 20 minutes or more. In an emergency that could be an eternity! My son's high school is on the other side of the tracks. It will affect the buses to the schools if the trains are going through at the time the school buses are running. What if there is a reason I need to get to the school during the school day and the trains are blocking the way? If the traffic is increasing at least four fold, it is likely to happen. There are many safety issues with that much train traffic going through my town.

The impact of increasing the train traffic in my small town will be burdensome. We are a small town, not equipped to handle the needed infrastructure to reroute the traffic etc. I do not think the impact on our town has been addressed adequately. I am against the sale unless our issues are addressed adequately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Malloy". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Colleen" and last name "Malloy" clearly distinguishable.

Colleen Malloy  
10908 Front Street  
Mokena, Illinois 60448