

Johnson - Ball

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Docket #:

- 35087

Subject: * CN/EJ&E
First Name: * James
Middle Name: Edward
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State: * IL
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Email Address: * jes950@aol.com
Group/Affiliation: Homeowner
Message:

I just received a package from DuPage County Board member Jim Healy urging me to oppose the CN purchase of the EJ&E railroad. Mr. Healy made six points which I will comment on:

1. Crossing safety: I believe the increased number of trains will have little or no impact on crossing safety as long as normal precautions are taken and the public observe normal traffic safety laws related to grade crossings.
2. More time in cars: At about two trains per hour after the purchase of EJ&E and an average of about four minutes for a train to cross at grade, there is no real issue here unless the person in question is running late...then so be it.
3. Increased pollution: The metro Chicago area will generally benefit from this purchase by overall less diesel fuel burned.
4. Emergency response times: See my point under #2 above, but if an issue the emergency agencies will need to make plans to take other routes, but I think this is not truly an issue.
5. Vibration issues: If you are worried about your home being vibrated by passing trains, you should not have purchased a home close to railroad tracks in the first place. The EJ&E has plenty of heavy coal trains each day and I don't hear anybody complaining now...why more complaining in the future?
6. Quiet zones: I live barely 1.5 miles from the tracks myself and hardly ever notice the train horns, even with my windows open in warmer weather.

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Bottom line, Mr. Healy is pandering the his constituents for future votes. The purchase of the EJ&E by the CN is not a big deal, and actually is a good thing for the metro Chicago region and should be allowed to proceed.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.