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September 17, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

RE: Docket # 35087

Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation -Control- EJ & E West Company

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

As a Frankfort resident I am very disturbed about the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E railroad by Canadian National. I lived in Oak Lawn, Illinois for over thirty years. The railroad there runs long frequent trains through the community. My children missed many a class sitting on a bus while a train sat with blocking the road. My daughter moved her family to this community 20 miles south of Oak Lawn so her children would be in class rather than on a stranded bus.

Canadian National proposes increasing the number of trains each day by 400%, and the length of the trains from ½ mile to 2 miles. My daughter's children will be sitting on that bus after all. Trains blocking grade crossings will delay school buses, police, fire equipment, and ambulances. The schools are on one side of the tracks, the fire and police are on the other. I hate to think what would happen if there were an emergency at a school and a blocked grade crossing prevented emergency personnel from getting there.

There are homes along the tracks for miles. The quality of life will be diminished for the families in these homes. Some of the trains will be carrying hazardous materials. CN has a dismal safety record in Canada. Loud whistles at night, and the noise and vibration from a 400% increase in trains will decrease property values for those homes, and in the entire community,

CN says that while the quality of life here will deteriorate, it will improve for the communities it leaves. Those communities will be the "winners". However, those communities have the infrastructure to deal with the trains, we do not. Those residents bought their homes knowing the trains were there and knowing the problems they cause. Residents in our community bought homes knowing there was a railroad track that ran short trains through it several times a day. The homes in those communities cost significantly less than the homes in the Lincoln-Way area, partially because of the trains. Once CN leaves the tracks it now uses, other trains will quickly fill the vacuum. Life for those communities will not change. There won't be "winner" communities.

Canadian National has no intention of paying mitigation costs. This foreign company wants my local, state, and federal government to pay for mitigation. This ultimately means I, the taxpayer, will be footing the bill for this albatross.

Just say no to Canadian National.

Respectfully,


Jean F. Shermulis

