

September 20, 2008

Ref: STB Finance Docket No, 35087

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

This letter is not printed on GREEN by chance, but by design. I have always been a person who recycles and tries to conserve our natural resources. The acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway by Canadian National Railroad scares me to death. I have this vision of traffic piled up at the 133 at grade crossings that will be impacted, all pouring gases into the atmosphere 24/7. I hope you have personally visited the affected area around Chicago to see the effect this would have on our air, not to mention the serious safety and other environmental concerns. Los Angeles will have nothing on us if this is allowed to happen.

As far as I have heard, the only affected community supporting this purchase is the City of Joliet, which already has several separated crossings. The rest of us have NO grade separations. The area where I live has been petitioning for years to get our tax dollars used to widened US Route 30 (Lincoln Highway) to 4 lanes, and it is still several years away before this comes to fruition. Interstate 355 connecting Interstate 80 to the northern suburbs took more than 40 years to become a reality. How will we ever build grade separations to relieve the congestion that 2 mile long trains, running every 40+ minutes will create when these critical road projects took years to accomplish? Taxpayers will no longer support schools, libraries and fire protection districts at the polls and we certainly can't afford to pay for CN train traffic relief. With the collapse of the housing market, the financial institution mergers/bailouts, the escalating rates for electricity, natural gas, and oil, we can ill afford this purchase to happen.

The need for CN to go to court to force an early decision demonstrates to me that they are not being truthful to you and us, and are fearful that the deeper you look at this deal, the greater the risk of you discovering their real agenda.

Please take my concerns into consideration and deny this purchase.

Sincerely,



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