

12287

August 25, 2008
540 Concord Lane
Barrington, IL 60010

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing you because of our concern for the proposed purchase of the EJ&E RR by the Canadian National RR. We are residents of a community that will be greatly affected if this purchase is allowed to go through. The proposed increased number of trains and the possible extended length of some trains would be a great detriment to our community.

To begin, the safety issues this purchase would bring to our community would have a wide spread impact. Our Barrington High School is a few blocks from one crossing with buses and teen foot traffic put in harm's way. There are younger children who have to cross over tracks in order to get to school or to the library at other locations. The safety of my grandchildren are at risk with this proposed change. Our community could be in total deadlock by one of CN RR's 2 mile long monsters. Fire and police services would be hampered when these crossings could be blocked. Many of our safety people are volunteers and need to come from various areas of the community. They could be hampered just getting to the stations, let alone trying to deliver the services need elsewhere in the area. There are a limited number of throughways which would allow our emergency personal to get around the long trains which CN RR might assemble. This gridlock might not allow the paramedics to get critically ill patients to the hospitals in surrounding areas.

Economic factors are also a matter for concern. Some business will be affected as shopping patterns change due to traffic interruptions. This in turn would affect tax revenues, traffic noise, air quality, and home values. What happens to our local well supplied water supply if there is a chemical spill? Where does this leave the STAR project which was instituted with the EJ & E RR in mind to ease commuter travel? It seems this proposed purchase would benefit a foreign corporation which has little concern for our US citizens and more concern about their bottom line.

Then there's the issue of who will pay for the expenses brought to the communities that this change will affect.. The expense to make some of the crossings safe is unimaginable and the community can not be made responsible for incurring that cost caused by the CN RR purchase. The crossing at Route 59/Hough Street is only one of several very busy and vital arteries that need to be considered. Traffic is very heavy on Route 14 and on Lake/Cook Road and both roads could be blocked by one of these monster trains. Then too, who will pay for the noise modification elements that this change will bring?

Barrington was established as a farm community that supplied food for Chicago and grew into a business center for Jewel Tea, American Can, Quaker Oats, etc., and home to many who work in Chicago. We were on the map long before EJ&E came here. We have lived with trains, built our town, and lived around the current train traffic. We get to our schools, we recreate, we shop, we receive emergency services, and live together moving about as a community. The proposed purchase by CN will affect our lives with a severe impact on our safety, economy, environment, and future growth and development. Please do not support this CN RR purchase of the EJ & E RR.

Sincerely,

Dee and Sarah Dockery