

September 18, 2008

Ms. 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 to express my **opposition** to the prospective acquisition of the EJ&E line by Canadian National Railway. I strongly feel that the negative impact this proposed transaction will have on our local communities is immense. The increased number of longer and faster freight trains running through our neighborhoods will result in:

- An increase in automobile traffic gridlock at rail crossings.
- Elevated pollution and noise levels
- Dangerously longer response times of our Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Teams
- The proposed length of these trains has the potential to block multiple street crossings during a single train passing.
- Disruption and/or closure of local business activities
- Adverse impact on our property values
- The potential for an increase in accidents and deaths along the rail line

Additionally, recent studies by RTA have revealed that a potential overcrowding of the EJ&E lines will also interfere with commuter METRA train lines affecting the ability of their riders to get to and from their workplaces in a timely manner.

Please do not let us be "railroaded" by Canadian National. We are hopeful that you will make the decision to vote against this acquisition and to help keep our communities safe for us and for future generations.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig S. Schwarz', with a stylized, flowing script.

Craig S. Schwarz
Resident New Lenox, ILL.