

Additional Comments:

Americans have the right to a quality life.

PLEASE – I beg of you to consider how the quality of life would be so severely affected!

All the news I read leads me to believe the STB is totally insensitive to the **basic American right**. We would never have chosen to move here recently if we had known there was a possibility of such train traffic. You have our retirement in your control.

We chose to recently retire here after very careful consideration.

The sale of the EJ&E would ruin the wonderfully planned later years.

- 1) The air quality with passing trains could affect my COPD.
- 2) The possibility of selling to move further from the tracks would be almost impossible.
- 3) Getting emergency medical care promptly could impact on our lives.
- 4) On & on..... It is impossible to list the many ways this would negatively impact our lives when we would be unable to make the necessary changes due to the fixed income of retirement.

PLEASE, remember we are all Americans with rights to a quality life.

Mary L. Kelly
2911 Grand Ridge Circle

Aurora, IL 60503

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely, kelly2911@sbcglobal.net 630-585-8220 630-338-2693 cell

Name: Mary L. Kelly

Address: _____

CC: Illinois Congressional Delegation

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS 60-5087

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July 23, 2008

Rec'd 9/11/08

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Docket # 35087, CN Purchase of the EJ&E

Dear Ms. Rutson:

As a resident of a community that will be greatly harmed by the number of freight trains that would operate through the region if Canadian National Railway (CN) is allowed to purchase the EJ&E rail line, I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that the interests of the residents of our region are protected against the negative impacts of this acquisition.

It is my understanding that the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) on this transaction will be released shortly. This document will let the region know what we can expect in the way of public protection from your agency. I am very concerned that my community will be facing significant issues related to public safety, environment, traffic gridlock, emergency response times, and economic losses if this acquisition is approved. None of these issues are being adequately dealt with by the CN, which is why I am asking you to fully address these issues in the EIS.

Additionally, in finalizing the DEIS, please ensure the following two issues are fully and adequately addressed:

- CN's unwillingness to provide freight traffic projections beyond three years (a cut off that precedes the Phase 2 expansion of the major new port served by CN – the Port of Prince Rupert in western Canada). CN needs to provide capacity data and operational projections to 2020, at the very least. If the American Association of Railroads can demand taxpayer investments in rail infrastructure to accommodate a projected growth in rail freight of 88% by 2035, it is inconceivable that the CN cannot quantify its own long-range business projections involving the EJ&E.
- Due to the significance of the potential impacts to our communities and region, we must ask for a longer review period than 45 days to respond to the DEIS. Communities need 120 days for a due diligence review that can adequately examine the data used to arrive at the conclusions and to respond to the study's findings.

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