

September 1, 2008
Phillis Johnson-Bell
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket 35087



Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to protest the Canadian National's pending acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad line.

Ms. Johnson-Ball, please look at the child on this letter. She was delivered by emergency c-section. A situation that was so time sensitive that if it took any longer to get to the hospital she and her mother would have died.

In order to get to that hospital the ambulance had to go over EJ&E tracks. If there was a freight train or severe backed up traffic, (A usual occurrence when a freight train is going through at this crossing), there is no way they would have made it.

You may wonder why this story should be compelling to you. Because the little girl is my daughter and I am thankful she and I are alive. We survived because of efficient paramedics and clear railroad tracks.

How many other people find themselves in desperate situations like this? They cannot wait for a freight train to go through a major highway or route like Route 14; Northwest Highway (the one I had to take).

I believe in keeping this community safe. I feel by allowing this purchase, the amount of railway traffic would devastate this community.

To those who only see dollar signs and not the quality of life...as a mom, I say...Shame on you!

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Strauss
Catherine P. Strauss
Barrington, Illinois
847.401.3595