

9/29/18

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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

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.

With an estimate of a 400% increase in train activity comes the added risk of derailments, pedestrian and vehicle accidents, transportation of hazardous cargo, both noise and air pollution, and the delayed response time of emergency vehicles due to blocked crossings. Not to mention, the daily congestion this will add for the public to commute back and forth to work, school, church and other activities.

The propose plan will devastate growth, diminish the quality of life, severely impact the property values, adding the extra threat of disasters and tremendously elevating the risk of accidents.

Please say no to the CN acquisition to avoid this tragedy in our communities.

Very Concerned,

Kim Heaberlin

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