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Robert Johnston

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60423

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August 25, 2008

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

To whom it may concern:

In the following matter this is my opinion.

The proposed sale of the E.J.E. railroad to Canadian National will have a profound impact on U.S. railroads and the rail industry.

Historically the rail industry was set up by American Companies with the government stepping in to help in the acquisition of right of ways by such means as eminent domain for the development of the American Transportation System.

In only a few cases has the government stepped in to control or nationalize our American railroad system (as in the case of war, labor disputes etc.) leaving the majority of the decision making was left to American companies.

The sale of the proposed right of way to a foreign nationalized railroad company sets a dangerous precedent. Example: Would the sale be as palatable if the sale was being made to Iran or Russia?

The area being considered is the hub of our American railroads and should not be in direct control by a nationalized foreign company whose interests are for self promotion and profit and not for the benefit of our American rail system, American employees or for the development of American Communities.

In the last copy of the surface transportation board the cost of the majority of mitigation to the proposed acquisition was to be born by the communities impacted by the acquisition. The reasoning for this was the communities would benefit from improved rail crossings and other recommended changes and mitigations brought about by this sale as this was the historical method of addressing the situation.

I maintain that this is not the historical situation and that the communities do not want the acquisition do not view this as an improvement to their communities do not view this as an improvement to the American owned rail system or an improvement to our American employees or our way of life or standard of living. This change is brought about by greed and for the benefit of a foreign nationalized company.

This agreement falls into the category of a treaty with a foreign government and should be reviewed by congress.

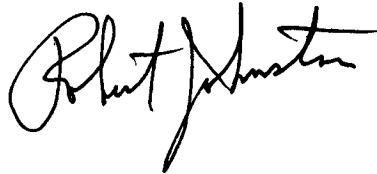
As to the above the acquisition it should be denied.

If the board should not deny (or feel they can not deny) the acquisition the mitigation of all items should fall upon the foreign national company in perpetuity as that is who is creating the problems and therefore should be held accountable.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnston

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Johnston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "J".