

September 19, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20423

ATTN: Phillis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

I am a resident of New Lenox who lives at the railroad crossing at Nelson and Andrea, approximately 50-75 feet from the tracks. If CN is allowed to purchase EJ&E I will be greatly impacted. Not only will there be more noise and vibration because of the additional train traffic but the pollution will be excessive. We will never be able to sit in our back yard because longer and faster trains will be going by every 40 minutes. What will be the cumulative effects of noise and pollution every hour verses the infrequent noise and pollution of today which already impacts our lives. The value of all the homes in this area will also decrease excessively because no one will ever want to buy one of these homes. If this sale goes through, residents on Andrea will not be able to get out from Andrea Drive turning left on Nelson because traffic will be gridlocked when the gates go up. No one will want to let anyone out onto Nelson because they have waited so long for the train to pass.

Also, why should the suburban taxpayers have to pick up the additional tax burden because CN doesn't want to foot the bill for overpasses and underpasses. We are now having a hard time meeting everyday needs of oil and gas and food because the economy is so bad, how can we ever be able to pay additional taxes which our communities will have to increase because they will have to build the sound walls, overpasses, underpasses and safer crossing gates to accommodate CN. Please do not let a foreign company profit and have us pay. Americans have too big a burden right now.

CN should look to their own country to build railroad tracks through Canada to get around the Chicago area. Why should they go through our suburbs, just build new tracks on the Canadian side and bypass Chicago. We moved out of the Chicago area to get away from the pollution and congestion. We don't want it to follow us.

We have a new high school opening next year right next to the tracks. Teens love to walk and goof around on the train tracks. These teens will try crossing the tracks to beat the trains when going to and from school and fatalities will happen.

I also understand CN doesn't implement safety measures needed in their own country taking care of the tracks they have now. We have very old tracks and with faster and longer trains going down them, we will see an increase in accidents and derailments. If these trains are hauling hazardous materials at the time of an accident or derailment look at the impact we face in our residential area. I'm sure CN doesn't have any intention of tearing up the old tracks and putting down new ones. They are in this for the profit only and they don't care if they ruin our lives.

Please do not let CN purchase the EJ&E. The impact on our community will be devastating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Monehan". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Louise Monehan
1001 Andrea Drive
New Lenox, IL 60451