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

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

I am a resident of Mokena, Illinois who will be **extremely impacted** by the CN purchase of EJ&E Railroad. I purchased my home **one year ago** to be near my grandchildren who live in Frankfort, Illinois. My main concerns are:

1. Noise/Air pollution Yes, I knew there was a rail line nearby but after checking into it found that there were about six trains per day that ran on the track. Now I find that this rail purchase will increase the number of trains **four or five times** that amount as well as **the length of the trains to almost 2 miles**. It is difficult to open my windows at night now because of the noise and train horns from both directions that can awake me. During the day the rail noise and vibration is considerable outside on my patio or when I have the windows open. I can't even imagine the decrease in the quality of life with round the clock freight trains. Will I have to keep the windows and doors closed all the time?

2. Traffic congestion. This population in this area is projected to increase substantially in the future. Extension of Route 355 has just been built connecting the south suburbs and will bring more retail and residential growth. Our **roads are already challenged** to handle this growth. Have the projections for growth in 10-20 years been considered? With rail crossings being blocked often by 28 long trains daily, this will be a real nightmare for residents of our community. **Emergency service response** will be compromised. And who will pay for any upgrades to the rail crossings? It does not look like Canadian National proposes to pay for these.

3. Safety. Residential homes, schools and bike paths in Mokena and Frankfort border the EJ& E rail lines. With a 400% increase in the number of trains brings the obvious percentage of increase in collisions, derailments and hazardous material transportation.

PLEASE look at the environmental impact on the quality of life that will affect the residents of all the communities affected by the **200 mile acquisition** by the Canadian National Railway. Please help to avoid the tragedy for our community and my grandchildren.

Respectfully,

Sharon Gerecke