

Statement with regard to the CN acquisition of the EJ&E Right of way.

I am a libertarian, politically, and favor minimum intervention of the government in business affairs and private lives of citizens.

However, one of the legitimate functions of government, from the Libertarian standpoint, is to prevent one citizen or group of citizens from causing harm to another. In the case of the CN acquisition, there is likely to be substantial harm done to the people who regularly use the roads crossing the EJ&E tracks at grade, and also to commuters who use Metra.

At a minimum, the CN should be required to assess the magnitude of the problems involved with traffic tie-ups, potential auto-train collisions, and interference with local commuter trains, and carry out mitigating actions prior to increasing the rail traffic on the present EJ&E right of way.

If the CN is not willing to agree do this, the sale of the right of way should be prohibited on environmental grounds.

Leslie Hardison

347-381-1624

les@hardison, info

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UNKNOWN ADDRESS