

## Members of the Surface Transportation Board

I am a Crest Hill resident and businessman and also a member of the Crest Hill Planning Commission. I am a strong believer in the railroads of our country. The railroads are essential to our economy. However, I have two concerns with the propose sale of the EJ&E by the Canadian National Railroad.

The first concern is the future of the proposed Metra STAR Line. I believe this is vital to the area's future transportation needs. I hope you consider this and set appropriate conditions on the sale of the EJ&E to ensure this propose commuter line will still be a viable option.

My second concern is with the numerous on grade crossings on this line. In Crest Hill, we have an on grade crossing at Oakland Avenue. Oakland Avenue is a vital route for our emergency vehicles to the East side of our City. The dramatic increase in rail traffic will severely impact access and response times to this part of the City. There is also an industrial Park by this crossing whose only ingress and egress is Oakland Avenue. Please consider an above grade crossing at Oakland Avenue as one of the conditions for the proposed sale.

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