

**Subject:** [DPNeBlast] Regarding Canadian National--from our colleagues in this fight

**Date:** Saturday, September 20, 2008 11:33 AM

**From:** Deborah Barry, Secretary <deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com>

**Reply-To:** deborah.barry@deerparkneighbors.com

**To:** "dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com" <dpneblast@deerparkneighbors.com>

**Conversation:** Regarding Canadian National--from our colleagues in this fight

host\_name

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From our stalwart Rita Finley, see below. Again, we urge each of you to make individual impact statements to the STB before the Sept. 30 deadline.

Your statement need not be long or complicated. Just two or three points regarding how the increase in rail traffic will affect you, your family, your business. What counts most is the aggregate number of statements received during this FINAL PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT.

The see further below, from <http://fightrailcongestion.com>, for further commentary and how to contact legislators regarding HR 6707.

We also invite you to visit <http://youtube.com/deerparkneighbors>

We have had hundreds of views of the TRAC videos from the Aug. 27 Open Forum—we will try to post additional videos ASAP.

REMEMBER, IF LINKS IN THIS EMAIL do not work automatically, simply copy and paste, beginning with the characters "http://" continuing through the last character of the web address.

----- Forwarded Message

**From:** <fn5@comcast.net>

**Date:** Fri, 19 Sep 2008 13:42:47 +0000

**Subject:** EJ&E- going to court/ stb MIA

You have probably heard this by now- CN is taking the STB to court seeking to ram this transaction thru. CN provides a lot of spin and neglects to mention:

1. The towns that would see a "decrease" in trains are not guaranteed a decrease in the long term .
2. CN also doesn't mention that they want the U.S. taxpayer to pay for most of the mitigation putting at risk any public funds that would have been

used for the CREATE program

3. The risk this brings to the commuter STAR line

\*\*\*\*\*STB MISSING IN ACTION??---Some people have had trouble contacting the STB recently (not answering phone, letters returned). If you have experienced this please let me know ASAP. If STB is making themselves unaccessible during this review process they need to extend the deadline. \*\*\*\*\*

CN Takes Fight To Court

<http://www.wbez.org/Content.aspx?audioID=29001>

Chicago Public Radio - Chicago,IL,USA

CN says it needs to know soon whether it can buy the **EJ&E** line, which loops around Chicago from Waukegan to Gary, Indiana. But that \$300 million deal is ...

[See all stories on this topic](http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ncl=http://www.wbez.org/Content.aspx%3FaudioID%3D29001) <http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ncl=http://www.wbez.org/Content.aspx%3FaudioID%3D29001>

CN goes to court over **EJ&E** purchase <http://www.post-trib.com/1171742,CNCOURT.article>

Gary Post Tribune - Gary,IN,USA

Traffic stops for an **EJ&E** train riding the tracks at 45th Avenue in Griffith recently. Train traffic along the route could increase if purchased by the ...

[See all stories on this topic](http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ncl=http://www.post-trib.com/1171742,CNCOURT.article) <http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ncl=http://www.post-trib.com/1171742,CNCOURT.article>

Canadian National asks federal court to intervene in **EJ&E** deal [http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/bolingbrooksun/news/1171395,na18\\_courtseje\\_s1.article](http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/bolingbrooksun/news/1171395,na18_courtseje_s1.article)

Bolingbrook Sun - Naperville,IL,USA

Canadian National and the **EJ&E**,s parent company, US Steel, have set Dec. 31 as the deadline for the deal to go through. „Given the substantial, wide-ranging ...

[<<http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/bolingbrooksun/news/>](http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ncl=)

1171395,na18\_courtseje\_s1.article>

<<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/prdailynews/>>

CN sues to speed up **EJ&E** purchase <<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1171619,091808cnsues.article>>

By BY GUY TRIDGELL Staff writer

The Canadian National Railway filed a lawsuit today to force the federal government to expedite its review of the company's plan to buy the **EJ&E** Railroad.

[The SouthtownStar :: News ::](#)

<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/index.html>

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/westchicago/homepage>

<http://freightscene.com/>

<http://www.inboxrobot.com/news/amtrak>

----- End of Forwarded Message

AND NOW FROM FIGHT RAIL CONGESTION

IRONY 1:

Yesterday, CN actually followed up on one of its oral commitments with real action – it went to a federal appeals court in Washington DC and asked that the court make an expedited ruling by the end of October that would force the STB to make a final decision on its application to purchase the EJ before December 1. This action shows that when it comes to putting something in writing to get something accomplished, CN has no problem in doing so WHEN IT SERVES ITS OWN BUSINESS PURPOSES. It's ironic that such quick action is not mirrored by prompt written commitments to Metra or other impacted stakeholders to take care of the problems we have with CN's plans to turn the EJ into a freight superhighway! Take a look at the CN legal filings on the [www.FightRailCongestion.com](http://www.FightRailCongestion.com) website – they are uploaded on the documents section.

IRONY 2:

A CN representative spoke yesterday at a meeting of the DuPage Railroad Safety Council. However, despite the safety focus of the event, CN failed to discuss its safety record or practices. Instead, CN used the event as an opportunity to pitch its acquisition of the EJ. Of course, who could blame the poor guy from CN for avoiding the topic of safety when it is the Canadian poster child for poor rail safety practices? No other railroad in Canada was subject to a

government audit. No other railroad in Canada has been accused by its government of "creating a climate of fear" when it comes to how it treats employees who dare to bring up safety-related problems with management. Take a look at these Canadian government safety reports on CN on the [www.FightRailCongestion.com](http://www.FightRailCongestion.com) website – they are uploaded on the documents section.

#### IRONY 3:

All speakers at this conference talked about the fact that rail safety improvements that protect people require concerted long-range planning and the participation of all stakeholders to secure necessary funding and achieve thorough results. Yet, ironically, CN's proposed acquisition denies the region any opportunity to undertake long-term safety-related planning. It just dumps a safety-related nightmare into our laps without the planning or financial resources to take care of our concerns!

#### IRONY 4:

Prior to yesterday's pitch by the CN representative lauding its planned acquisition of the EJ, the audience at the DuPage Railroad Safety Council meeting heard the personal story of Mr. Ford Dotson – the engineer who was driving the Metra train that hit the Fox River Grove school bus in 1995 that tragically killed seven students. His was a compelling story of how that event changed his life. Mr. Dotson noted that he is willing to go anywhere at any time to educate people about the reality that it is impossible to stop hundreds of tons of steel by the time the engineer can see something on the tracks. Yet, within twenty minutes of Mr. Dotson's comments, the CN representative got up and discussed how CN's planned acquisition has created "extreme emotional distress for both sides of the acquisition." How can CN be talking to a railroad safety group about its financially-based "emotional distress" when the group just heard about real emotional distress from Mr. Dotson? This takes CN's record of callousness for safety-related community concerns to astounding new heights!

#### ACTION NEEDED TO RESOLVE THESE IRONIES:

We need to get HR 6707 passed into law next week before Congress adjourns! Contact ALL of the following leadership offices on Capitol Hill BY MONDAY with the message: "Pass HR 6707 into law!":

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi -- [AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov](mailto:AmericanVoices@mail.house.gov)

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer -- [http://www.majorityleader.gov/email\\_and\\_rss/](http://www.majorityleader.gov/email_and_rss/)

[email\\_the\\_leader](#)

Rep. John Boehner (House Republican Leader) -- <http://republicanleader.house.gov/Contact/>

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid -- <http://reid.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

Senator Mitch McConnell (Senate Minority Leader) -- [http://mccconnell.senate.gov/contact\\_form.cfm](http://mccconnell.senate.gov/contact_form.cfm)

Senate Asst. Majority Leader Dick Durbin -- <http://durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Senate Daniel Inouye -- Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science Transportation Committee -- <http://inouye.senate.gov/abtform.html>

----- End of Message

As always, call, email or drop by if you have questions.

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Deborah Barry, Secretary | Al Barry, President  
**847-867-1867** <http://deerparkneighbors.com>  
Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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**847-867-1867** <http://deerparkneighbors.com>  
Deer Park Neighbors, 412 Bramble Lane, Deer Park, IL 60010

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DPNeBlast mailing list

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