

February 21, 2008

An Open Letter to:

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich
U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr.
U.S. Representative Rahm Emanuel
U.S. Representative Jerry Weller
U.S. Representative Dan Lipinski
U.S. Senator Dick Durbin
U.S. Senator Barack Obama

Re: The Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by the Canadian National Railroad

In early 1998, the United States Navy proposed that their Vietnam War era stock pile of 23 Million pounds of napalm be disposed of by shipping it from California to a disposal facility in neighboring Indiana. This would have taken place over a two-year period. The proposed mode of transport of this material was to be by rail and the rail route would take the napalm across the Southern portions of the Chicago land suburban area via the EJ&E railroad tracks.

Our local and state governmental leaders fought against this proposal as they felt it would potentially have high environmental and safety impact on the neighborhoods and homes along the EJ&E tracks. The then U.S. Representative William Lipinski, the then U.S. Representative Rod Blagojevich, U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr., U.S. Representative Jerry Weller, the then U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun, and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin expressed their respective concerns and forced the Navy to find other means of disposing of the napalm. They kept the potentially dangerous material out of our back yards and from crossing through our communities in the Southern Suburbs.

In 2008, about 10 years later, the Canadian National Railroad (CN) proposes to acquire the EJ&E railroad. This proposal would dramatically increase the number of rail cars carrying HAZMAT type cargo allowing materials potentially even more hazardous than napalm to come into our neighborhoods. We the Prestwick Homeowners Association (PHA) of Frankfort, Illinois feel that the logic expressed by our governmental leaders in 1998 in stopping the U.S. Navy from bringing napalm into our neighborhoods should still apply to CN's proposal which would increase HAZMAT materials by about 650%. In fact the Navy's proposal was just for a two-year period, CN's would go on indefinitely if the Safety Transportation Board (STB) approves their acquisition

The PHA therefore requests that in 2008 our governmental leaders again express the same concerns that they had in 1998 in having potentially dangerous materials transported through our communities, but this time direct them to the STB referencing Finance Docket No. 35087.

Sincerely,



Richard Misiorowski
PHA Board Member- Governmental
Frankfort, Illinois