

August 26, 2008

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Canadian National Railroad Purchase

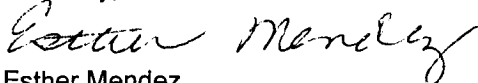
Dear Ms. Ball:

I am an associate at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, Illinois, and I vehemently oppose this CN proposal. Many associates and patients travel to Good Shepherd Hospital via Route 59, since there are no other routes from the Northwest suburbs south of Lake-Cook. It takes me approximately 45 minutes to an hour in summer weather in travel time. If this proposal is accepted, it will impact many individuals in several ways - one of them being increased congestion through an already congested area, and increase in already sky-rocketed fuel prices and travel time. My husband will be unemployed at the end of October. This will add to our household financial hardship, and possibly cause me to look for work closer to home and leave a job I love. Other reasons as:

- EMS & Fire will experience "substantially (negative) effects" in delays, accessing 911 calls, and delivering sick, injured and trauma patients to ER/Trauma care;
- One-third of all Good Shepherd ambulance calls in the Barrington area originate from the "wrong side of the tracks," east of the EJ&E;
- 70% increase in EMS times to re-route to other hospitals when blocked by freight trains;
- Increased train accidents and HAZMAT spills along the EJ&E line; (*Dist. 220 school buses cross the EJ&E 840 times per day, going to/from 12 area schools!*)
- Barrington railroad "quiet zones" will fall out of compliance;
- "Substantially affected" highway/rail at-grade crossings (*gridlock, blocked roads*);
- Have an adverse effect on the economy of the Chicago Metro area;
- Due to the longer route through outer suburbs, trains will burn substantially more diesel fuel (639,442 gallons additional), and vehicles waiting at blocked crossing will use an additional 84,000 gallons of wasted gasoline, and polluting emissions would increase proportionately;
- The Route 14 crossing, just east of 59-Hough, will experience the highest estimated daily traffic increase for any EJ&E crossing on the entire line, backing up McHenry County commuters, others.

Please take all these issues into consideration in this important decision . Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



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