

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Mrs. Johnson-Ball,

I moved my family to Barrington, Illinois 18 months ago. The reasons for our move were safety of the area and quality of life. The proposed acquisition of the EJ&E will remove those two primary drivers as a reason to live in Barrington. The proposal by CN to initially run 20 long freight trains a day along the line will have a significant negative impact not only on Barrington, but on other communities along the rail line as well, including Hoffman Estates and Naperville. This is a far cry from the approximately 5 trains a day that range from 15 to 20 cars in length. Of even greater concern is that CN has referred to the EJ&E as the 294 for freight traffic. That analogy indicates that the 20 train number will be significantly increased after the 3 year application period is over. I don't know if you can imagine what 20 trains a day would do to this area in terms of auto traffic congestion, but 30 trains would literally make this area impassable during morning and evening rush hour. I can assure you that statement is not an exaggeration.

I also understand that there is no limitation on what type of freight that can hauled by CN meaning that any type of chemical can be hauled along these lines whenever and as often as they choose. The Barrington and other western suburbs have a number of wet lands that are adjacent to the train tracks. Some of these communities get some or all of their drinking water from underground water sources so you can imagine what a chemical spill would do to these communities. This is in addition to the fact that we are speaking about densely populated areas. The risk of wide spread casualties and deaths cannot be under estimated. Compounding that danger is the fact that many citizens of Barrington will find themselves cut off from emergency services in the case of such an event! CN's snide response to this reality during the Barrington STB meeting was, "well you will have to build another hospital". They really don't care, they just want you to approve the acquisition so they can start growing profits.

CN says they are proud of their safety record, but everything I read indicates that their safety record is below average.

I ask you why American taxpayers are going to be put in health, safety and financial jeopardy in favor of a Canadian railway company whose sole objective is increased profits?

A representative of our community also overheard an STB representative say in essence that the deal needed to be profitable for CN. What about the homeowners who bought homes in areas that are going to be affected by this highway 294 of freight traffic. Do

their economic interests and well being have no bearing in this matter? If you go up and down the line, there will be 100's of millions of dollars lost in property values.

In the end, the negative impact this proposed acquisition will have on the safety and well being of the citizens of Barrington will be tremendous. The traffic implications for the autos that pass through Barrington will be horrendous. Please keep in mind the human and environmental costs of this acquisition on the 600,000 or so human beings that live in the affected communities and the likely equal number of human beings that will be impacted by this on a daily basis as they commute to work and school.

I implore you to not approve this acquisition based on the overwhelmingly negative safety issues that this freight superhighway would pose on the communities that it runs through.

Sincerely,

Brian Deja
Heather Deja
John Deja(4 months)

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