

August 27, 2008

To whom it may concern on the STB:

I am an obstetrician practicing in Barrington in a practice established over 15 years ago. I deliver babies and do surgeries at both Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington and St Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates. It is necessary for the survival of my practice to have practicing privileges at these two hospitals. My patient population reaches from Elgin to Wauconda and Huntley to Vernon Hills.

I am enormously concerned about the proposed CN acquisition of the EJ&E rail line and the expected significant increase in rail traffic along that line. I recently had an experience on a stormy night where the guard rails were down at the EJ&E crossing on Barrington Rd/Hough St just south of Northwest Highway. I had been called from St Alexius to Good Shepherd due to a baby in distress that would require an emergent cesarean section. Traffic was completely stopped and I waited over **ten minutes** to get across the tracks. There is NO OTHER route that would avoid these tracks. I panicked, thinking that this could be a regular occurrence in the future if CN gets its wishes.

Thirty minutes is the greatest amount of time that should be allowed between a fetal heart rate that is down and a cesarean section for a fetus that has had no signs of distress prior to the event. It is eighteen minutes for a fetus that has been previously compromised. These crucial minutes could mean the difference between a normally mentally functioning child and one with mental handicaps or worse, the life or death of a newborn.

It is amazing to me that as Americans we would compromise the health of an unborn child in order to further the financial advancements of a foreign company. I am saddened that my community has had to fight so hard to maintain its citizens' rights to good healthcare. If this transaction goes through, this community may lose some of its best physicians, as the medical liability environment is already at a crisis in Illinois and our inability to reach our patients in time could worsen that issue tremendously. We could easily be forced out of practice, thereby worsening the access to healthcare in the community.

Please consider the great health risk the CN acquisition would put on the communities of the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. I urge you to stop this proposed purchase, for the sake of my patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Keith, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" part being more distinct and written in a slightly larger, bolder script.

Rebecca Keith, MD
Novas & Associates OB/GYN