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Public comment regarding the proposed purchase of the EJ&E railway by Canadian National.

We live in Hoffman Estates within fifty yards of the EJ&E railroad crossing at Shoe Factory road. When we first moved in, close to fifteen years ago, we noticed about one train crossing every one to two days. Today, it is close to four to five crossings per day. This occurs at all hours of the day and night. Our experience includes:

- Very loud whistle blowing and loss of sleep
- Very loud diesel engine noise and smell
- Excessive disruption of traffic on Shoe Factory road
- Trains that literally stop for extended periods blocking cross traffic and sonic bang noises when they start up again
- Concerns about property values as the train traffic has increased
- Concerns about structural damage to our house due to massive vibrations
- Our children late to school because of long trains blocking the road
- Concerns about response time for emergency vehicles
- Concerns about the safety of hazardous materials transported on the railway
- Is the railway prepared for a derailment and/or Hazmat spill?

We ask the Canadian National Company to propose realistic and responsible remedies to the following items as a condition of sale for the rights to the EJ&E railway:

- Whistle blowing
- Diesel noise and odor
- Disrupted traffic on Shoe Factory road and the effect on alternate road traffic
- The end of trains that dead stop on the tracks for long periods of time
- Potential property value impact in the neighborhood
- Excessive ground vibrations
- Delay in school bus schedules
- Emergency response time for police, ambulance and fire vehicles
- Full disclosure of proposed hazardous materials and schedules for transport
- Full disclosure of derailment and Hazmat spill emergency plans
- Plan to assure the integrity of the tracks as train traffic increases dramatically

We request that the Canadian National company implement aggressive solutions to these issues. One solution would be to run the EJ&E tracks under Shoe Factory road (under the hill just east of the tracks). This would basically resolve most of the major issues. This is the caliber of problem resolution we are requesting CN to implement.

We await a response!

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