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Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047
847-719-2580

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We write to you today in expression of our opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Line by multinational corporation Canadian National (STB Docket #35087).

This company wants to be our new neighbor, and plans to send through an influx of two-mile-long freight trains rolling through our communities every hour, or possibly more often. How will police, fire and EMT personnel be able to serve our communities effectively and save lives when they are encumbered by this train traffic? I'm sure there are good answers to these questions.

And yet, when pressed by leaders from our local municipality about our public safety concerns, this company exhibits a striking apathy. Though each train has a manifest and is outfitted with global positioning capabilities, I understand that this private company refuses to even talk about sharing this information with local municipalities.

I have also heard local public safety officers express simple, valid concerns about the hazardous materials issues that will ride into our communities along with these trains, and the lack of concern on the part of CN. Our community is not equipped for the high level of hazardous materials abatement that would be called for should train cars holding ethanol or other flammable substances derail and cause an explosion. When our officials expressed this concern to the company, CN assured them that an expert team flown in from all corners of the globe within 8 hours of the incident. How helpful of them, while our police and fire officers can do nothing but evacuate our community in the wake of their private, for-profit messes.

Our area would also benefit greatly from a commuter rail line, and we're also concerned that this deal would kill the possibility of the Metra STAR line, which has been widely discussed and considered as an important step in our area's public transportation expansion.

This proposed deal is another example of how powerful corporations take advantage of out-of-date laws and use our system and its flaws to line their shareholders' pockets while they show shameless disregard for the communities they impact directly. I truly hope that you and your colleagues on the Surface Transportation Board will see fit to consider all of the aspects of the problem and stop this abuse of our country's resources by a multinational corporate giant.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Vanessa & Chris Griffin

