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563 Aberdeen Rd
Frankfort IL 60423

1-24-08

US Transportation Safety Board

RE: Docket No. 35087

Section on Environmental Analysis

395 E. Street SW.

Washington, DC 20423

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Dear Sir or Madam:

My name is Greg Bird and I live at 563 ABERDEEN ROAD, FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS, 60423. My home abuts & up against the EJ+E tracks in Frankfort. I have lived in this home since 1974 when my father built it. I purchased it from him in 2000. For 33 years, the EJ+E has run less than 10 trains a day up and down the tracks. Three generations of "Birds" were raised in this home in relative quiet. This seems about to change for the ~~worst~~ worse.

This letter pertains to your Docket #35087, Section on Environmental Analysis, regarding the proposed sale of the EJ+E line to the Canadian National. I am, as my wife Judy and our ~~three~~ three chil-

dren, John, Ryan and Lauren, are extremely concerned about the proposed change from +/- six trains a day to a proposed 28 trains a day. While progress may be inevitable (so), it should come with the idea of preserving as much of the past as possible. Regarding my family and me ~~II~~, that should mean maximizing the safety and environmental well-being of our neighborhood.

Cook and Will Counties are currently ^{the} planning widening Harlem Avenue at its intersection with the E-J+E tracks. There should be consideration of an overpass at this location. The next road that crosses the E-J+E tracks (to the east) is Ridgeland Avenue a mile away. To get there, one needs to drive about 3 miles due to the configuration of area roads. The next road (to the west) is Pfeiffer Avenue, 2 miles west of Harlem. To get there, one needs to drive about 4 miles due to the configuration of area roads.

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My children's schools, Hickory Creek and Chelsea, and our church, St. Anthony's are all on the other side (south) of the EJ+IE tracks. Any blockage of Harlem St Avenue effectively prevents one from driving to ~~these~~ institutions. It would also prevent police and fire personnel from getting into our neighborhood.

I understand the concept of NIMBY: "not in my backyard". However, if change is coming to ^{the} literally, my backyard, see attached google map, I hope, at a minimum, "sound walls" are put up ~~&~~ along the railroad tracks. That, and my concern over my ~~asthma~~ ~~asmate~~ son's asthma being affected by an increase in particulate matter and fumes, makes our family anxious about this projected sale.

Finally, ^{again} at a minimum, the area should be a "quiet zone" with whatever restrictions placed on the

CNO as is necessary to maintain peace and quiet, within reason. (on and off)

I have lived 47 years in this home. I hope ~~what~~ whoever is reading this letter takes his or her responsibilities seriously in helping a fellow citizen stay in a home in a respectful manner. You have the opportunity to help a little village in Illinois retain part of its charm and quality of life by your decision. I hope my trust in you is not misplaced. At a certain level, I am, as an American, somewhat embarrassed to ask for your help in putting conditions on the sale of this railroad line to a foreign corporation. Apparently, ~~our~~ our world is growing smaller with each passing day. I am tempted to quote "South Park" here, regarding our neighbors to the north, but I will try to keep this letter in the "non-vulgar" category.

Please do what you can for

5.

us. If you need a volunteer for placing ~~sens~~ sensor's in our neighborhood to monitor the railroad, I would be happy to volunteer.

Any questions - 815-469-4349 or The Bird family - birdfamilyfrankfort@yahoo.com. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Very truly yours.

Greg Bird.



Address

563 Aberdeen Rd
Frankfort, IL 60423



"Bird House"
563 ABERDEEN ROAD
FRANKFORT, IL.
60423

EJ+E
TRACK

proposed
sound walls