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March 18, 2008

US Transportation Safety Board
RE: Docket No. 35087
Section on Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street-SW
Washington, DC 20423



To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is regarding Docket No. 35087, Section on Environmental Analysis. I am extremely concerned about the proposal to utilize the railroad tracks passing through the southern boundary of the Prestwick subdivision of Frankfort, Illinois, for the passage of 28 trains every 24 hours.

Aside from the environmental impact to the neighborhood, such increased usage would wreak havoc on the traffic patterns in Frankfort and neighboring communities. Unlike Chicago, many roads in this area end in cul de sacs or other dead-end configurations. Also, few viaducts exist in this area to allow for passage under the tracks. This would impact emergency response vehicles (i.e. ambulance, fire and police calls), school buses (we have schools along the railroad route), and significantly disrupt the flow of traffic and entry into neighborhoods.

The result of 28 or more trains per day passing through the EJ&E railroad would be catastrophic. The NOX and particulate load, the increase noise from train whistles and engine noise, and the smell from the diesel would increase by significant magnitude. The overall impact would greatly effect the environment and quality of life in this area. I believe that the proposal also shows a harsh and specific neglect to the residents of the area. If you look specifically at the location of these tracks, it would be ludicrous to allow such an increase. The current situation is less than ideal let alone expansion. The tracks are directly behind and **ABOVE** the homes of Prestwick subdivision and ridiculously close to hundreds of new homes, parks, and schools recently built throughout the well publicized growth of this area. Increasing traffic statistically increases the chance of a catastrophic accident significantly and is unacceptable to this community. One quick ride along the tracks would demonstrate the stupidity of blindly authorizing such an increase in train traffic even to the uneducated eye.

It is our strong urgent request that the plan for this railroad to be altered, so that the tracks are moved to a less populated area to the south. If this cannot be accomplished, I would encourage those in charge to address these serious concerns by imposing the maximum train traffic rules, whistle blowing standards, and maximum penalties to the railroad when traffic flow is impeded beyond measurable tolerances. These requests are in addition to any recommendations that result from the planned environmental impact study.

Sincerely,

Daniel McCormick, MD, FACP
Frankfort, Illinois (not along the tracks !)

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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