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Ms. Victoria Rutson

Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Reference: STB Docket number 35087

Dear Ms. Rutson:

My wife Brenda and I both strongly oppose the proposed purchase of the EJ&E railroad line by Canadian National. We moved to the Hawthorn Woods area in search of beauty, quiet and a degree of tranquility. The proposed purchase of the EJ&E line by Canadian National would virtually destroy all that we cherish in our home site and significantly reduce its marketable value. I would know, I am a retired real estate broker. Our opposition has other valid concerns:

Noise: we live approximately two blocks from the now railroad line. With the huge anticipated increase in rail passage, we would be listening to "clatter" 24/7.

Automobile traffic: As of right now, traffic is a problem without any consideration of what will occur if the rail traffic increases by a factor of 15 or 20 times (per Canadian National). Such a traffic backup would virtually ruin retail locations, churches, children's play areas, reasonable traffic flow and accesses to our town hall. With train lengths purported to be from 1 to 2 miles long, utter havoc would result plus diminish the accessibility of our homes, stores and facilities.

Safety: Given the proximity of our homes, our roads and our emergency facilities (police, fire department, hospitals and ambulance services), any train of considerable length would most definitely jeopardize any life saving efforts from emergency services. With our two main accesses roads only 2 miles apart, any train of that length would effectively block all access to a large area.

Ms. Rutson, in light of all of the above along with the massive negative effects that the proposed acquisition will have on all of the N.W. communities along the EJ&E line, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to disallow this proposed acquisition by Canadian National.

Respectfully,



Robert L. Brown