

03431-032608. Ph: pps, 60184. P.N. ^{LOCL}

Village of Wayne

P.O. Box 532
5N430 Railroad Street
Wayne, IL 60184
Clerk's Office, Village President and Trustees 630-584-3090
Building Department 630-584-7760
Police Department 630-584-3031
Fax 630-584-0259

March 26, 2008

Congressman William Foster
Box 703
Geneva, IL 60134

Re: Canadian National Railroad/EJ&E Railroad
STB FINANCE DOCKET 35087

Dear Congressman Foster:

Thank you for attending our Town Hall Meeting last week at the Wayne Elementary School, and speaking to our concerned citizens. The Canadian National Railroad purchase of the EJ&E Railroad is one of the largest issues our Village has faced. Should this transaction take place, everything about our way of life in Wayne will change, but of utmost concern is public safety.

We appreciate the letter you and other U.S. Representatives signed opposing the purchase. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I received from Canadian National Railroad regarding our private meeting, and the one I sent them in response.

As always, we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Eileen Phipps
President

/pe

Encl: Canadian National RR letter
Village of Wayne response letter
Cc: Senator Barack Obama
Senator Richard Durbin
U.S. Representative Melissa L. Bean
U.S. Representative Jerry F. Costello
U.S. Representative Donald A. Manzullo
U.S. Representative Judy Biggert
U.S. Representative Timothy V. Johnson
U.S. Representative Peter J. Roskam
STB, Phillis Johnson-Ball

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E RR

Log and Distrib

Date Recd: _____

File No. _____

Scanned (Initial) _____

STACT # _____

Cc: Original - Job File

Village of Wayne

P.O. Box 532
5N430 Railroad Street
Wayne, IL 60184
Clerk's Office, Village President and Trustees 630-584-3090
Building Department 630-584-7760
Police Department 630-584-3031
Fax 630-584-0259

March 18, 2008

Canadian National Railroad
17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, IL 60430

Attention: Mr. Eric Jakubowski, Director – Product Development

Dear Mr. Jakubowski:

Thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to meet with us to discuss the impacts the proposed purchase by Canadian National Railroad of the EJ&E railroad lines will have on the Village of Wayne.

I appreciate your letter of March 12, 2008 recapping your understanding of our meeting; however I wish to clarify a few issues.

Your letter correctly stated our concerns that the increase from three trains per day to 24 trains per day would have noise and vibration impacts to the Pratt Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. In addition, the increase in traffic will adversely impact those that wish to take advantage of the dog parks, model airplane fields, trail systems and simply the quiet enjoyment of a premier forest preserve. One can only guess at the impact to the wildlife that currently inhabits this preserve. Our same concerns of noise and vibration impacts extend to the residents of the village of Wayne as well.

I appreciate your offer of mitigation in the form of establishing a quiet zone through our community as well as the training for emergency responders in the event of a hazardous waste spill. We look forward to continued discussions on these topics.

Forgive me, but what troubles me is that your letter did not address the life safety issues that my community would face should this acquisition take place. Our police chief, Dan Callahan, was quite explicit in his comments and concerns that this proposed increase in traffic could be an emergency responder's nightmare. I read nothing in your letter that offers a solution to getting emergency personnel from one side of my village to the other when we have a train coming through at a minimum of one per hour. The distance from Smith Road on the south end of our community to Army Trail Road at the heart of our town is approximately 5,000 feet. These are both at grade crossings. One freight train is estimated at 6,000 to 10,000 feet depending on the commodity being transported.

Obviously the gates will go down to halt traffic in advance of these trains. Vehicular traffic is then at a standstill from the time the gates go down. Depending on the time of day, the vehicles could back up significantly on these two lane roads. It is conceivable that the crossing could finally clear only to have another train come through and start the entire problem over again! We haven't even begun to discuss the air and noise pollution created by the idling cars and trucks waiting for the train to clear.

How significant will this pollution be during the summer months when frequent ozone alerts are issued? One assumes better air quality would be found in the suburbs away from the high traffic and density of the cities. It tends to be one of the perks of country living: fresh air, wide open spaces, peace and quiet; listening to the sounds of nature not the noise and disruption of commerce.

The Village of Wayne continues to be concerned about the following impacts to our community:

- The noise and air pollution.
- The increased risk to health and safety with the uncertainty of emergency responders being able to reach one end of the village or the other in acceptable times.
- The increase risk of contamination to our private wells in the event of a hazardous waste spill.
- The economic impact to our community. The historic, rural and equestrian heritage of our village will be severely impacted by the increase in train traffic resulting in a loss of community. This will result in lower property values.

I simply can not conceive what mitigation exists that will make this acquisition tolerable for the many families that call Wayne home.

Finally, it is unfortunate neither you nor anyone else from the Canadian National Railroad is available to attend our Town Hall Meeting of March 19, 2008 to listen to and discuss the concerns of the communities impacted by this proposed acquisition.

Best regards,


Eileen Phipps, Village President
Village of Wayne



www.cn.ca

March 12, 2008

Sales and Marketing

Eric T. Jakubowski
Director – Product Development

17641 South Ashland Avenue
Homewood, Illinois 60430
T 708.332.4584
F 708.332.4570

Ms. Eileen Phipps
Village President
Village of Wayne
5N430 Railroad Street
P.O. Box 532
Wayne, Illinois 60184

Dear Ms. Phipps:

Thank you for meeting with us. You are dedicated to preserving the character of your town and we appreciate that. We will do what we can to manage the transition so that we respect your community.

You asked about trains making a connection in Pratt's Wayne Woods. As I mentioned at the meeting, the number of trains making this connection will be small, much smaller than the amount of through traffic. However, this connection is something we are looking at and I will keep you apprised of any developments. I will also provide you with information as to possible delays in train traffic due to the connection.

You discussed the unique nature of Pratt's Wayne Woods and its importance not just to your town, but to the thousands of people who visit it. You raised concerns about noise and vibration and the possible impacts on the woods and its visitors. The railroad has long been a part of this ecosystem and we will be observant in our operations and maintenance of the surroundings.

Mr. Spiroff said Wayne does not currently have a quiet zone designation. We have been asked by some communities for assistance in establishing quiet zones. CN is currently conducting an assessment of the costs and mitigation impact for upgrading some crossings and I will let you know what kind of contribution CN can make in helping Wayne establish a quiet zone if you choose to.

We also discussed hazardous materials. I would note again both the industry's and CN's exceptional record in safely transporting these commodities. I also want to reiterate our offer to provide training for your emergency responders in the rare instance that an incident may occur. CN's Safety & Environment Group can be available to provide training whenever you request it. You can contact me and I will arrange it.

Finally, you requested that a CN representative attend the town hall meeting scheduled for March 19. I regret that we will not be able to attend this event. Should you schedule another, please notify us and we will consider it. I appreciate the candor of your remarks. I understand your concerns and I hope we can establish a productive working relationship should this acquisition be approved.

Sincerely,

Eric Jakubowski