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Subject: * Docket No. 35087
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Message:

Attached: Scoping Comment for the Proposed CN Railway aquisition of the EJ&E.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Scoping Comment for the Proposed Canadian Railway Company Acquisition of the
Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Being a resident of North Barrington, miles from the sights and sounds of the rail lines crossing through the Village of Barrington, my initial concern about the increased use of the EJ&E line was the inconvenience of even more traffic congestion in our area. However, as I think about our neighbors living in the Village, about our children's daily commute to schools within the Village, and about emergency services for the entire area, I realize the proposed EJ&E acquisition is a serious threat to our community's future.

Traffic around the Village of Barrington & Lake Zurich backs up daily during morning and afternoon commutes, especially through Route 59, Ela and Northwest Highway. Additional impediments to traffic flow created by increased freight on the EJ&E will put the entire area into gridlock. The impact on businesses within the Village of Barrington would be disastrous. My family most certainly would seek alternatives to our favored doctors, shops & restaurants given the expected delays. We would be leaving businesses that have served us well for the 10 years we have lived here. Village residents and business owners who have invested time and money into their properties, many of them historical, will see their values plummet and their quality of life disappear.

The school bus system would be rendered inoperable with the proposed number of freight trains running through the Village, as the buses cross the eight EJ&E crossings continuously from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. My children currently have a 50 minute bus ride to Prairie Middle School, crossing the line at Ela near Highway 12, and are often late due to traffic congestion as it exists now. There is no way to transport the children in CUSD 220 within a reasonable amount of time or according to a dependable schedule with the proposed railway use.

Most critically, the line separates Barrington's Good Shepherd Hospital from The Garlands Senior Housing of Barrington & Governor's Park Nursing Home, over half of CUSD 220 schools, Ron Beese & Citizens Park Sports Fields and half of the Village residents. Ambulance delays are inevitable. The Police & Fire Department is separated from Barrington High School as well as two elementary schools. Police, fire & rescue services must cross the line in nearly every imaginable emergency scenario.

The CN acquisition and proposed use of the EJ&E will not only result in environmental and financial ruin of the thriving Village of Barrington, but also will make existing school transportation for CUSD 220 impossible and impede emergency services to the entire greater Barrington area.

① Catherine Howes
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January 14, 2008