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Date: January 31, 2008

To: Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

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

Dear Sirs,

The Canadian National Railroad (CN) is attempting to purchase the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern (EJ&E) rail line, which cuts through from Hoffman Estates, through South Barrington, Barrington Hills, Barrington, Deer Park, Lake Zurich, Hawthorn Woods and Mundelein to Waukegan.

CN has estimated an increase in freight traffic on this line from 5 to 20 additional freight trains per day. In reality, when using such disperse numbers, the increase could be even bigger.

Such an increase in rail traffic could have severe negative impact on our region's already congested roads, and could literally paralyze the road traffic in the area.

This issue has the potential to affect all area, as traffic tie-ups on major arterial roads could lead to region-wide backups with major economic, safety and environmental consequences.

Some examples of the concerns:

- 1 - Traffic tie-ups that would strangle local communities, leaving children alone at school without a ride after dark.
- 2 - Increased probability for school bus accidents on the railways tracks.
- 3 - Increased freight traffic would delay first responders and people in medical emergencies. Such delays can mean life or death for victims of an accident or patients in cardiac arrest.
- 4 - Response to emergency 911 calls would be slowed by traffic delays.

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- 5 – Minutes spent waiting for a passing freight train can make the difference between a battle won or lost for a home in flames.
- 6 - Businesses without access to either employees or customers.
- 7. – Economic slow-down of the region due to traffic delays could translate into loses that could easily top the price paid by CN for the EF & J line.
- 8 – Businesses considering moving out of congested areas.
- 9 - Home values would decline due to traffic gridlock, the vibrations of passing freight trains, and the increased risk of train accidents.
- 10 – Increase air pollution due to engine idling while waiting for the trains at railway crossings.
- 11 – Disturbing the wild life environment and affecting some protected species living in forest preserves in the area.

That is why, for the above mentioned reasons and since this potential acquisition will for sure affect the many people and businesses in this area, all US and Illinois tax payers, to the benefit of a foreign private company such as CN, myself and my family living in Barrington will appreciate if such and acquisition **will not be approved** by the Surface Transportation Board of the US.

We believe that too many US taxpayers will have to suffer for the benefit of a Canadian private company in the event the approval is granted, with direct negative consequences for all activities and environment in the area.

Best Regards,

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