

January 27, 2008

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the proposed Canadian National Railroad purchase of the tracks that run through my town in Barrington, IL. I do not want them to go forward with their proposal to buy and use these tracks. I understand they plan to run several additional freight trains on these tracks. These tracks cut right through the town of Barrington and additional traffic on the tracks would be a disaster, economically, environmentally and with regard to safety.

My family and I drive over these tracks everyday. The tracks cut right across Highway 14, at street level, in between Lake Cook and Route 59. To get to the hospital, we have to cross the tracks at this intersection. My son has a fatal nut allergy and with Good Shepherd Hospital on one side of the tracks and with us on the other, it is frightening. Also, our town is far too congested to handle an accident involving the chemicals and petrochemicals they plan to move over these tracks. The fire department is on one side and the hospital is on the other. No one benefits. To go from the public library to the park district, we also have to cross the tracks at this section. We frequently walk this route, with small children and strollers. To visit my sister, who lives just north of 59, we have to cross these same tracks.

The town of Barrington just installed a gorgeous, award winning park, Citizens Park. It is located adjacent to this same intersection (hwy 14 in between 59 and Lake Cook). This new park connects to the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. My family and many others bike to Citizens Park and then continue to Cuba Marsh. The freight trains will make that bike ride nearly impossible and for those who manage to cross the tracks safely- think small children and training wheels, to bike the trail next to the freight trains and their noise, it is not what our community wants.

I cannot stress enough how disappointing this purchase is for our town. We have struggled to rebuild our quaint downtown, with many people pushing for a renewal here. We finally have some success with increased retail and restaurants in our downtown. To get to most places in Barrington, however, one needs to cross these tracks. Increased traffic on the tracks will lead to increased traffic congestion throughout our town. More freight traffic will divert many people away from our village, hurting these businesses. Even if one does not need to cross the tracks, the car and truck traffic that backs up as a result of the train traffic is already a safety hazard, let alone a major inconvenience, with more noise and pollution. This is already the case when I go to shop at the grocery store, Jewel, and the traffic is backed up at Lake Cook and 59, because of the freight tracks that are just north of the metra tracks at 59. I also see cars try to "beat" the gates at least once a week.

Please consider the negative impact the purchase of the EJ & E tracks by CN will have on the citizens of Barrington, IL.

Sincerely,



Leslie Menikoff
847-382-2262



Leslie R. Menikoff
652 E Hillside Ave
Barrington, IL 60010

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

Log and Distribution

Date Rec'd: _____

HDR File No. _____

Scanned (Initial): _____

STACT #: _____

Cc: Original - Job File