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Ms. Brae Hanson

Business Owner and Area Resident

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February 11, 2008

Representative Melissa Bean
1622 East Algonquin Road, Suite L
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173Representative Mark Kirk
707 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 350
Northbrook, Illinois 60062Re: Comments regarding the Proposed Purchase of the EJ & E Railway line by CN

Dear Representatives Bean and Kirk:

I am both a resident and business owner working throughout the northwest suburbs of Chicago, and I am currently using my vehicle in many of the areas serviced by the EJ & E line. I have many people working for me who must not only take the same travel routes that I do, but who also live along or near this line - in houses they paid very good money to purchase. We are all also impacted by the proposed severe ramifications to health and safety that we in northern Illinois will experience as a result of the sale of this railroad to Canadian National.

I would respectfully request from each of you a list of what exactly you are doing for the residents of Northern Illinois in respect to this matter. I have enclosed in this letter a copy of my letter to the Surface Transportation Board, so that you might see the many points of view that just one affected person can have on this matter. The text that follows is the copy of my letter to the STB. I pray that you will seriously heed the public's concerns, and not take this matter lightly. Thank you for your time.

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to write to you regarding the proposed railway line purchase outlined above. I have many concerns based upon the three frames of reference I, myself, am able to draw upon:

- my knowledge of the community as a resident,
- as a person running a business here in town, and
- as a Realtor.

In short, the following items will lower the standard of living of ALL PERSONS living and working along the current EJ & E line:

- 1) ANY additional freight trains per day will thwart the ability of emergency personnel to get residents to the hospitals in a timely fashion. The number of trains proposed each day make this possibility unacceptable in any fashion.

- 2) Traffic throughout the affected communities is already at a standstill during rush hours. The addition of more freight trains coming through these areas will snarl traffic for many more hours each day.
- 3) Each time a freight train comes thru the EJ & E line, traffic does not merely dissipate after the train leaves the area. It already can take hours for traffic to normalize. Additional freight trains tying up traffic, and, again, Emergency vehicles, is unacceptable.
- 4) Many, many, many people have purchased homes and rent apartments all along the EJ & E line. These people moved into these properties, and in many instances, spent much money to do so, because they performed their own due diligence, and found out that only 3-5 trains pass thru those tracks per day. Most people can live with that kind of noise and disturbance. With an addition of 15 or more trains per day on this line, the property values all along the line will PLUMMET, and people's livelihoods will be affected for decades to come. In some cases, homeowners will be unable to sell their properties at all if the sale of the EJ & E goes through.
- 5) Injuries, fatalities and crime in many areas will go up dramatically, since first responders will be kept from reaching people who need them. Quality of life here will go from good to less than zero.

With the EJ&E having 133 grade-level crossings along the line from Waukegan to Gary, the flow of commuter traffic will inevitably be hindered as CN makes the line its "Interstate 294 bypass" of freight traffic. Simply stated, the impacted communities are not equipped with the rail crossing infrastructure to handle a massive onslaught of freight traffic, nor do we have the taxing authority to build the infrastructure needed to alleviate emergency responder and public safety issues; NOR do many already-congested communities have the time or the patience with which to withstand the construction of safe infrastructure in order to avoid the health, safety and financial catastrophes that will occur if this purchase is allowed to go through.

Please do all you can to keep this sale from occurring. The communities of northern Illinois will not be able to withstand this turn of events.

Sincerely,



Brae Hanson
Managing Broker

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Comments

ED 1-10-10

Comments

Comments

Comments - Job File

HDR