



January 30, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Regional Property Manager of the Landings of Lake Zurich, a 206-unit apartment community adjacent to the E J & E railroad line in Lake Zurich, Illinois. It has come to my attention that Canadian National is negotiating to purchase this railroad line resulting in an exponential increase in the daily freight traffic on this line.

The impact of this freight traffic will have a dramatically negative impact on the safety, congestion, noise, property values, the environment and overall quality of life in Lake Zurich and the surrounding communities. The Landings of Lake Zurich apartments back up to this rail line. So the increase in traffic from 3-5 per day to 18-20 per day will likely force some of our residents out of their home. The tracks are very close and I realize the noise and rumble caused by the freight trains passing nearly every hour will be too much for residents to take. Rent and occupancy levels will be undoubtedly impacted and this means income will suffer. As managing agent, I can not let this monumental change go by without voicing my strong opposition. Safety is another huge concern because the rail runs between our apartments and the Lake Zurich High School. Now we routinely see kids crossing the tracks, but with the increase in train traffic the hazard will increase...and kids will be kids...they will still cross the track. Is this a liability you can live with? Simply put going to school, shopping, accessing local business, parks and the right to quiet enjoyment will be significantly impacted.

I am opposed to this purchase and proposed schedule change. I urge you to look for a broader regional solution to the movement of freight on the railroad lines in and around the Chicago area. Surely there is a better way.

Very Truly Yours,


Becky A. Stumpe, CPM
Regional Property Manager

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

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