

January 9, 2008

To: U. S. Transportation Safety Board
Section of Environmental Analysis

Re: Canadian National Proposed Acquisition of EJ&E Freight Railroad

We wish to express our strong opposition to Canadian National's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E. There are so many ways that this acquisition will negatively impact the Barrington community.

First and foremost, it is a safety issue. With eight street grade level crossings in our community the possible devastating impact is frighteningly clear. Much longer and more numerous trains will increase the possibility of ambulances and emergency vehicles not arriving in time to handle life threatening situations. If a mile+ long freight train passes through Barrington it will block multiple through-streets for unacceptable amounts of time. And what if a train must wait for switching clearance? The complete town could be deadlocked for 10-15 minutes.

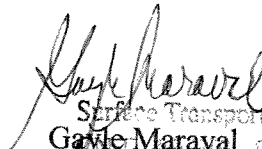
We have hundreds of school children in our district crossing EJ&E railroad tracks, whether by bus, by car or by foot, both morning and afternoon. Increased train traffic and longer commuting delays will put them at much greater risk.

The environmental and psychological impact due to the increased noise and stress caused by more numerous and longer trains passing through our community is something that will be difficult to gauge. However, we are certain that this will be extremely detrimental for the Barrington area. Finally what about the increased risk of derailments?

Please consider all the arguments presented to you by our community and prevent this acquisition from taking place. Do not allow Canadian National to destroy our town!

Sincerely,


Philippe Maraval
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Barrington, IL 60010


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U.S. Transportation Board
FD-15087


Samantha Maraval

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