



STONE CREEK
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 3924
Joliet, IL 60434-3924
www.Stonecreekha.org

1/21/08

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

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing, STB
Finance Docket #35087

Ms. Johnson-Ball,

This letter is written in behalf of all of the residents of the Stone Creek Subdivision located in Joliet, Illinois and is in opposition to the proposed acquisition involving the EJ & E railroad in Will County.

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

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Stone Creek is comprised of 111 homes and is one of several subdivisions and several hundred homes in the area bordered by Renwick Road to the North, Gaylord Road to the East, Division Street to the South and Essington Road to the West. The EJ&E lines runs within 100 yards of homes on the south end of our subdivision. The EJ&E has grade level crossings on all four of the roads bordering ours and the adjoining subdivisions.

There are several issues that would have significant negative impact on our community if this sale were to go through. They are as follows:

1. There is no way to travel South or West from our area without crossing grade level crossings, which are currently disruptive to traffic on a regular basis.
2. Our location in our school district means that all buses carrying all of our children to and from school will have to cross these tracks every day. There is no route to any of our schools that would not require crossing these tracks.
3. Emergency and First Response vehicles could be significantly delayed.
4. Commuters heading to work via Interstate 55 or Rte. 59 have no way of reaching these major thoroughfares without crossing the tracks. The increase in traffic could create long and unavoidable delays.
5. There is currently no sound abatement policy for the trains or their whistles while passing through our neighborhoods and the current level of traffic already causes disturbances both day and night.
6. Vibrations from the train traffic can be felt throughout all of the homes in the neighborhood. What would be the long-term impact to infrastructure within the subdivision with a tripling of this traffic and the accompanying vibrations?
7. The Lake Renwick Bird Sanctuary would be negatively impacted due to increased noise pollution.



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It is our firm belief that the increase in traffic suggested by this deal would negatively impact transportation for thousands of residents in this area for the purpose of one company's profits.

Commuters will suffer longer travel times in an area already identified as having overly congested traffic by officials at both State and Federal levels. Elected representatives to our area are currently working to obtain funding to address these issues only to be further frustrated by adding increased train traffic to the equation. Students will face delays in getting to and from schools and all persons using these roads will be placed at increased risk equal to the increased train traffic. It is negligent to allow this sale to occur without regard to those persons residing within the area directly effected and to take an already transportation challenged area and significantly restrict all travel for thousands of people needing to travel south or west from these neighborhoods.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns regarding this situation.

Sincerely,

The Residents of Stone Creek Subdivision
Tim Pavlich, President