

Date: August 27, 2008

To: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

From: Chris Chatzidakis

Subject: **STB FINANCE DOCKET NO. 35087**

I am a resident of 883 George Towne Lane, in Barrington Illinois. I am writing to you to register my strong opposition to the Canadian National Railway Company acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. My reasons are as follows:

1. The safety of our children will be put at risk. Over 800 District 220 buses traverse the train tracks everyday during the school year. The chance of train/bus accident will be dramatically increased. Additionally, emergency vehicles will be blocked from getting to hospitals and schools for extended periods of time. Precious minutes will be lost in health and fire emergencies.
2. The draft report says the chance of release of hazardous chemicals is small. With the close proximity of the train to houses and parks even a small risk is too much risk. A spill of any kind in Barrington could contaminate our drinking water and spoil protected wetlands. The report also says that air and noise pollution will be increased.
3. Grade crossings at Routes 59, US 14, and Lake-Cook Rd (Main Street) will cause traffic delays of 10-20 minutes per crossing. The net result of this will be to cause endless grid-lock. This is not to mention the delays caused to the Metra trains which also cross the EJ&E tracks. Metra traffic is scheduled to be steadily increased in the coming years, which only make the congestion worse and increase the chance of a freight/commuter train accident. This constant congestion will also increase air pollution and waste precious fuel of cars sitting in traffic. This will all eventually lead to the demise of our community.
4. Canadian National has a poor safety record. Fifty percent of their trains have brake problems and 24% of their gates malfunction. They have been cited by their own government for having a poor safety record. Accidents are inevitable, but they can be prevented by the STB not approving this deal.
5. The draft states that train traffic on other CN lines will be decreased. But we know that this will be temporary. Eventually the traffic on these lines will increase back to congested levels. The region needs a long term comprehensive solution that doesn't include destroying towns like Barrington.
6. The draft report also suggests that the economic impact to our communities would result in modest drops in property values. I couldn't disagree more. I believe the community as whole will see a precipitous drop in property values,

not just those homes and businesses located near the tracks. This will then erode our tax base, which decreases the quality of our community. Not to mention the loss of businesses which will lead to job loss. The overall impact to our economy will be much worse than discussed in the draft report.

7. Overall, this acquisition will effectively destroy the community of Barrington, by polluting our air and possibly our water supplies, destroying our property values and driving out businesses. I certainly do not see this as a positive move for our community, county, or state. Please do not let this acquisition through, but if you do, please make CN pay to bypass Barrington (Rte 59, US 14 and Main Street), either by over pass or underpass. I am implore you not to ignore our communities opposition.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Chatzidakis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chris Chatzidakis