

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 would like to take the opportunity to voice my strong objection the Canadian National Railroads intent to increase the rail traffic directly behind my house. My objection is three-fold. I object to it for personal reasons., environmental reasons, and finally for traffic reasons. I would like to take the opportunity to briefly describe these main objections.

My personal objection to the increased traffic that will be caused by the CN railroad purchase is that it will reduce the property value of my home. I have worked very hard in improving my home and have increased the value of my home by spending quite a bit on many home projects. I feel that many of these improvements to my home may never be realized due to the lost value of my home as soon as this rail traffic increases. There are countless homes on this line that will be negatively affected. I worry that my home will become virtually un-sellable if the traffic were to increase to the levels proposed. I also have small children and a dog that will put at higher risk by the increased rail traffic. The current rail schedule has no effect as there are typically on three trains a day and they are at times when we are not outside. With increased rail traffic the serene acre we have will be transformed into a noisy, polluted rail-yard. This is the second home I have owned on this railway and with the forest preserve being directly behind my house it is currently like living in the country with and endless wilderness behind the house. I take long walks in the preserve with my children and dog looking for shed deer antlers and just to be outside. With the increased rail traffic I do not know if it would be safe to do this anymore and I would most likely end up moving.

The forest preserves along this railway would also be negatively affected. With the noise and physical pollution I assume the wildlife will be negatively affected. There are many forest preserves along this railway and I think the negative impact should be looked into extensively prior to granting the request for increased traffic. Many deer cross these tracks into our neighborhood. It is nice to see deer, coyotes, pheasants, hawks, owls, raccoons, and many more types of wildlife in my backyard. With the increased rail traffic much of the wildlife will be constrained into the boundries of the forest preserve instead of blending into suburbia as they are now. Part of the reason I moved to my

neighborhood was that even with the limited rail usage it felt like we lived in the country even as suburbia has spread around us.

Possibly the worst aspect of the increased rail traffic would be to the traffic in the area. Many of the surrounding communities are already a nightmare to travel through. Barrington in particular very well could become impassable. I travel through Barrington about three times a month right now and I specifically try to avoid rush hour as I could loose at least an hour if caught by trains. Many of my employees also are affected coming to work by this railway. I think this aspect of the increased traffic needs to fully investigated as crippling communities with road traffic due to increased rail traffic seems to be absurd.

In summary I cannot see the increased traffic by the CN railway helping anyone in the area. From lost property values, to negatively effecting the environment with noise and diesel pollution, to grid-locking communities in the area I see no benefit to the people of the area. I would hope that much care is taken making this decision as it will affect countless people negatively and the backlash will be felt if the wrong choices are made. I would take the time to gain as much information as need to make the right decisions for the communities involved in this decision.

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

Mr. Mark Landrowski and Dr. Angela Landrowski
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