

M.W. STUBNA

February 11, 2008
Barrington, IL 60010
139 Harbor Dr. Lk. Barrington

Dear Congresswoman Bean:

The Canadian National Railroad usurped ownership of track belonging to the EJ&E Railway. A rather heated, if not altogether tender, debate has begun over whether or not the Canadian National Railroad should mobilize roughly twenty more freight trains daily. My opinion on the situation is as follows: I do not support the mobilization due to possible safety issues, increased traffic repercussions, homeowners' complaints, and other general complaints.

Should the Canadian National Railway choose to mobilize more freight trains despite heated debate and intervention, the odds of certain safety issues would be increased significantly. As you know, a train that crosses a railroad crossing for automobiles delays traffic. This dramatic increase in daily freight trains further heightens the inhibition of the mobility of emergency vehicles. Also, should a train be carrying a toxic, flammable, or otherwise harmful load and should derail in a populated area, a potentially fatal situation would arise.

As I mentioned before, a train that crosses a railroad crossing creates traffic repercussions. This could be potentially dangerous because the repercussion created by the staggering frequency of 100-car freight trains shortens the time between trains dramatically. The enormous repercussion consists mostly of automobiles with drivers wishing to cross the tracks. Those who wish to cross are in danger of being forced into remaining stationary on the railroad tracks. The trains today run relatively frequently, so the increase in daily trains infinitely magnifies the probability of death of those who are forced to remain on the tracks. This has occurred. A fully occupied school bus in a repercussion was forced into remaining stationary on the tracks. Eventually, a train collided with the school bus, killing all 78 occupants. Also, repercussions can cause delay for commuters driving to work and school buses with 77 children waiting to be driven to the place of their education, something that is highly valued in our civilization, as well as families with children driving to late-night extracurricular activities and arriving late due to trains which can be rather vexatious.

A handful of citizens have their dwellings situated adjacently to the railroad tracks. A frequent complaint is that trains created excessive noise. If the Canadian National

Railroad plans to mobilize twenty more trains daily, irate homeowners would fume to local governmental officials of an excessive overabundance of metallic ruckus due to the fact that those new trains have magnified this ruckus. Secondly, should a train that happens to pass by those neighborhoods derail or otherwise fail (e.g. explode or collide with another train), fatalities are inevitable.

Finally, there are a lot of general complaints about rail congestion. Citizens erect signs denouncing the petition for more trains (Fight Rail Congestion! People Before Freight!). Citizens are also upset because it seems that the Canadian National Railroad values the economy and freight trains more than the transportation of people. Citizens persist with these complaints. The bulk of Chicagoland civilians seem to be against the petition, most likely for the above reasons.

A fierce debate over whether or not the petition should be approved has arisen. There are already deaths, disasters, repercussions, complaints, delays, and dangers created by today's train schedules. I personally disagree with those who wish to mobilize the trains due to safety issues, homeowners' complaints, general complaints, and traffic repercussions. For a safer, more delay-free Chicagoland, please intervene.

Regards,

M. W. Stubna