

12363

Other Submissions

In order to process your filing, please fill out the following information. If you do not know the docket number, please leave it blank and we will fill it out for you.

Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: -35087 -

Subject: * Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the EJ & E Railway Company

First Name: * Leslie

Middle Name:

Last Name: * Blount

Address: * 1774 Lanyon Dr.

City: * Bartlett

State: * IL

Zip Code: * 60103-

Email Address: * lesblount@comcast.net

Group/Affiliation: none

Message: Please do not allow the sale of the EJ & E Railway.
The instructions for these filings are confusing. If this is sent to the wrong place, please forward it to the correct place.
Leslie Blount

LESLIE BLOUNT

1774 Lanyon Drive
Bartlett Illinois 60103

September 2, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Surface Transportation Board,

I live one block from the E, J & E Railroad tracks in Bartlett, Illinois, and I am profoundly against the purchase of this line by the Canadian National Railway Company. These tracks already cause problems for my family and my community. If the rail traffic on this line increases, it will become unbearable.

The population of the western parts of Bartlett has increased steadily over the years, but the number of routes from the east to the west has not. The only choices we have to travel through this area are Lake Street, West Bartlett Road and Sterns Road. There are no railroad mitigations on any of these streets. I must travel to my house on West Bartlett Road to my house or I must detour over three miles out of the way to go around. In the interest of saving gas, and realizing that going around often will not be any faster than waiting out the train, I usually wait on the train. On many occasions, the train stops on the tracks and does not move for quite a while. One time, I was stuck at the crossing for 45 minutes before the train cleared the road. We called the police and a number that was listed on a sign near by, but the train didn't move for 45 minutes. It was late and I was tired but all I could think about was the fact that I was only half a mile from home, but I couldn't get there. It is also a problem anytime the train comes through during rush hour. The traffic on West Bartlett Road will back up so far that it almost reaches Rt. 59. Rt. 59 is one of the only available North-South roads in this area. If longer trains and more trains come through this area, the chances of the tracks getting blocked for long periods of time, or during rush hour will increase. This will make the bad traffic in this area much, much worse. It will detour growth in this area and cause the whole area decline in property values because people will not be able to get to their houses in a timely manner.

I am also concerned with safety of our houses if the rail traffic increases. My house is on the other side of the tracks from the fire station. If the tracks are blocked by a train, fire equipment will not be able to reach my house. The next closest station is in the next town over. By the time they realize the tracks are blocked and call another station, precious minutes will be lost getting the equipment to my house (or my neighbors.) This may cause deaths or more damage that a timely response.

I am not like some people that are trying to blow up risks that are very remote like derailments or hazardous spills I know these are remote risks. The things I site here are things that we already experience with the current line, that will only get worse with more and longer trains. I know I live near a train track, and that freight has to get through, but please don't ruin our community by significantly increasing the rail traffic on this line. **Please do not allow this sale to go through.**

Sincerely,

Leslie Blount