

Jennifer Nichols
870 George Towne Lane
Barrington, IL 60010
847-382-5447
Jnich613@aol.com

I am writing this letter in hopes to preserve some sense of traffic and community safety in the Village of Barrington. The Village of Barrington and the surrounding area is facing a disastrous situation that could destroy the homeowner's quality of life as well as the viability of its business districts. The Canadian National Railroad is seeking the United States Surface Transportation Board approval to buy the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Co. The Board is mandated to approve the purchase unless the Board finds the purchase would reduce freight transportation competition.

The EJ&E has a line that runs through the heart of Barrington. If the CN is successful in their bid to buy EL&E, the number of freight trains that would run each day on the EJ&E line would increase from approximately 3 to 5 to 20. In addition, CN plans to permit four other major railroads access to the EJ&E line that would further increase daily use by freight trains through Barrington. Would this increase occur mostly at night when there would be less of an impact on traffic? Or will this happen during regular daytime hours? Of course, anytime of the day will be a detriment to anyone requiring emergency services! Although it is impossible at this time to estimate the number of freight trains from the other railroads, the 20 CN freight trains take an average of 6 minutes to pass through a single railroad crossing or 2 hours every day. The gridlock created just by adding 15 more freight trains from CN, at each of the four railroad crossing in the Village, would essentially curtail all vehicular traffic in the Village, impede school bus movement and ambulances to Good Shepherd Hospital and eventually destroy the viability and vitality of the community. The gridlock currently created by one train during the daytime or rush hour is awful.

There are a number of other facts and issues concerning the sale of the EJ&E to CN that impact Barrington:

1. The EJ&E line essentially cuts Barrington in half, with downtown and the middle schools on one side and the high school and Good Shepherd Hospital on the other. Ambulances, rushing to the hospital delayed at a railroad crossing could be life threatening. For school children, buses encountering crossing delays can make them late to school and could double or triple the time spent on the bus. It also increases their bus time on their ride from school. School buses cross the EJ&E tracks 370 to 400 times a day. For those children walking or bike riding to school, railroad crossing present a serious safety concern for their well being. Rail commuters are also at risk and faced with the same delays.

2. The Village of Barrington has been working diligently to develop its downtown business district. If shoppers and diners find it too difficult to get into Barrington because of blocked railroad crossing due to freight trains, they will go to another

shopping area and bypass Barrington. To retain their good will eliminating railroad cross delays is vital. The lost tax revenue will also be a significant blow to the local schools as well as police and fire departments.

3. With, at least, four times the number of railroad crossing delays, the property values, both residential and commercial will plummet. One of the reasons to live in Barrington is a safe country environment with downtown amenities. With the increase in freight trains and the limited access to the village, schools and the hospital, the property values will reduce dramatically. Noise pollution from the freight trains will be more frequent and most of the houses in Barrington will be affected by the noise. As it currently stands, the whistle blows are obnoxious and the train blows it's whistle for a long time over a long stretch of track.

4. The new Citizens Park, which is adjacent to the EJ&E line, will be affected by the frequency of the freight trains. The trains will eliminate easy access to the Park and its use by Villagers. The \$ 14,000,000 bond issue that made the Park a reality will have been for naught. Will we now have to pay for expensive fencing to go along this track?

If we are going to preserve the Village of Barrington as a safe and peaceful community—a great place to live, we need your help. We need to preserve the real essence of the Village that invites people to come live here and enjoy the benefits of an outstanding educational system for children, an excellent hospital, where traffic and pedestrian safety is a major concern and the well-being of its citizen is a priority. Help SAVE Barrington.

Thank you,

Jennifer Nichols and Family