

August 26, 2008

Safety and Transportation Board
W Buttery, Chairman

Re: EJ&E Railway Acquisition

This is the first time I have ever complained to a board about anything related to a federal report. I am strongly opposed to the acquisition of the EJ&E railway by the Canadian National. I am opposed because it affects the traffic pattern of Hawthorn Woods and surrounding communities in a manner that jeopardizes the health and safety of its citizens.

The tracks split Hawthorn Woods and nearby communities into two parts. I live in the part of the community that will cut off my only route to emergency healthcare and fire protection. The fire protection is currently one mile away and the hospital about six miles. The next closest hospital is also cut off by the tracks in a different location.

Allowing long trains to block the paths of Lake Zurich, Hawthorn Woods, and Mundelein can be the difference between life and death to me and other taxpayers in this area.

By allowing the trains to run before viaducts and overpasses are built will only increase the impossible traffic gridlock we currently experience due to a lack of road funds. I doubt they will ever be built based on our current economic situation.

My last objection relates to having American taxpayers pay for efficiency improvements to allow a Canadian firm to make more money. If this is such a moneymaker and efficiency (profitability) enhancer let CN pay for the road improvements before the long trains are implemented. Why should taxpayers pay?

Last but not least, my insurance premiums will rise as a result of increased delay time caused by long and more frequent train traffic. Actuaries will recognize the effect of the Increased traffic and factor it into their tables.

I strongly recommend that the Board consider the welfare of the community before that of a foreign firm or let them pay the 'freight' before the plan is implemented.



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