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Representative Melissa Bean
1622 E. Algonquin Rd., Ste L
Schaumburg, IL 60173

RE: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

I am a resident of Barrington, IL, where the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E line by the CN Railroad is occurring. My home is approximately 300 yards from this track. Our way of life is about to experience a drastic change. The increase of 400% in train traffic will greatly increase the amount of time these crossings are blocked. The primary concern is safety. The children cross these tracks twice a day by bus to school. The basic needs of banking, grocery, post office, church and many other businesses necessitate a minimum of 3 crossings each way. The increased time for emergency services to get to my home may be the difference between life and death medically, and between salvageable damage and total loss of my home in a fire. The traffic tie-ups on the two major commuter roads of Rts 59 and 14 will greatly impact our village. I see huge financial losses to our village businesses as neighboring villages and even our current residents patronize other areas rather than deal with the traffic in Barrington. This of course will have a domino effect on other areas such as schools, park district, home values and taxes.

I understand the STB must approve this transaction; however, I have tremendous concerns about the viability of our village as the CN begins its takeover of these tracks. Their safety record includes historically poor responses to derailments and collisions. I read last week that IDOT and CMAP are still waiting on CN to answer questions to facilitate their response to the STB. They are showing complete disregard for our region and the infrastructure that currently looks out for our safety. The CN has been very vocal on how this is only the beginning and they see great growth on this line. The growth they see will be the demise of Barrington and other affected communities.

This process of approval and mitigation takes place on the federal level, and you are our link. Please fight for your constituents and the wonderful villages and towns that are fighting for their lives. We need serious mitigation to ensure our safety as this railroad increases traffic. The CN has currently only proposed the changes for the next 3 years. We ask that you urge the STB to request the CN plan for the next 10 years, as we feel the 20 train/day increase is a very small increase compared to what they have planned. There will need to be grade changes at several crossings to provide safe passing through already busy intersections. For those of us that live close to these tracks, we will personally need mitigation for changes to our homes that will help offset the increased noise and vibration that is coming our way. The EJ&E currently goes alongside Langendorf Park and the new Citizens Park. To safely be able to continue using these parks, there will need to be a barrier between the tracks and the park areas. I don't know if there are ways to decrease the pollution that will be created from all the locomotives both idling near our neighborhood and going through the villages, but our health will also be affected.

Advocacy and leadership from you and our House of Representatives is mandatory to help the STB see how important the anticipated changes are and how much we need from the CN to maintain a safe community. The manner in which the CN has behaved thus far indicates they have no respect for the citizens affected and want nothing more than to start barreling through our region.

We love the Barrington community and are very proud of the services it has to offer. Business Week recently named us the 25th best place in the nation to raise a family! If the CN is allowed to take over without intervention, our community will be destroyed. Please help us to protect our community's future.

Thank you for your representation of our concerns.

Respectfully,



Jeanine Chapman
702 Bent Ridge Ln.
Barrington, IL 60010

After listening to the presentation and ~~the~~ hearing the goal of the purchase being denied, I have a new concern. If the purchase is denied and the EJ+J gives trackage rights to CN anyway, what can protect us then? At least with the purchase we have the chance of some of the negatives being mitigated. I am almost more afraid of letting CN use EJ+E tracks as they currently can.