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Karen and Brian Abry
1033 Cormar Dr
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to you as a concerned resident of the Wicklow Village Subdivision in Lake Zurich. Our neighborhood backs up to the EJ&E train line. We understand that the Surface Transportation Board is considering the environmental impacts of Canadian National Railroad's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E line and increased freight traffic running over this line.

We have serious concerns about this acquisition and the proposed increase in the number of trains carrying potentially hazardous materials across this line. This line runs through our neighborhoods, past our schools, our library, our YMCA, community parks and critical intersections in our town. The safety of not only our children but of all residents of Lake Zurich will be greatly impacted by this acquisition and the increased freight traffic.

Each day our school buses make 200 at grade crossings across the tracks. The potential increase in train traffic would cause numerous delays for our children and several safety risks. School buses cannot be waiting 15-20 minutes for a train to cross. Not only would this delay their daily learning, but would also be a concern for children waiting for their buses to pick them up, especially in inclement weather. Also our teachers, parents, and students would be affected by a delay from a long freight train. All of this would have a large negative impact in the education of our children.

In addition, with several of our schools so close to the tracks, there would be additional safety risks for our school children. There are no fences to block the children from the trains. Many children cross the tracks to get to school and many elementary children are outside for recess with the tracks running along side their playground. Also, the noise interference from the increase freight trains would greatly impact the learning process of both our high school and elementary school.

Another concern is the delays that would occur for our emergency response teams. They would have to find alternative routes to get to our residents and seeing that the tracks split our town in half, it is extremely difficult to find a way around the tracks. This would directly impact the safety of our community members.

Besides the increase train traffic, the greater amount of hazardous wastes that are carried on these freight trains, along with Canadian National's less than good safety record is a bigger problem. You will be putting the safety of all our residents at risk. Our community does not want this increase risk. As aggravating and disruptive as the increased noise, traffic congestion and pollution will be, the risk of danger and threat of personal injury to our children presented by the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railroad of the EJ&E line cannot be ignored. It is our personal plea that our government will work to stop this proposed acquisition to protect the welfare and safety of the residents of not only my neighborhood but our town and the entire region. Thank you for your careful consideration of this serious problem.

Sincerely,

Karen & Brian Abry
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