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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Attn: Ms Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket # 35087

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

HDR

The proposed purchase of the EJ&E line from Gary, IN to Waukegan, IL by CN is opposed by me for many reasons. It seems counter productive to me to solve one problem by creating so many others. With the political clout of Chicago politicians and US Senators, and the size and wealth of CN, there is probably little hope for ordinary citizens to have their voices heard. If the purchase of the EJ&E is approved, there surely have to be some strong restrictions on the number and timing of trains.

First, let me state that my husband and I are retired. We don't have to go out during rush hour unless there is an emergency. However, the impact of so many trains could create the same bottlenecks that rush hour encounters here. The greatest impact on us personally would probably be the diminished value of our home.

Second, I also worry about the hundreds of school children who cross the tracks in a single day. I'm concerned about young drivers going to the high school from the east side of the tracks and who may try to beat the trains so they won't be tardy.

Third, CN doesn't have the greatest safety record. If there was a derailment of hazardous material, many people would be cut off from medical treatment because the four crossings in Barrington and three in Lake Zurich would effectively leave people without access to the closest hospital, Good Shepherd.

All in all, 15-25 freight trains a day and 60 commuter trains (plus one or two freight trains on the metra tracks) will destroy the quality of life that brought people to these areas originally. (They will also destroy the foundations of our homes close to the tracks).

Why not move the tracks farther west where there is less density of population and have a longer-term solution.

Sincerely,



Penelope Lumsden
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