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January 23, 2008

To the Transportation Safety Board:

My family has been residents of Fox River Grove which borders Barrington to the west for over three years. We commute to and through Barrington 5 days a week for work, we cross the tracks 3-4 times a day to access our daycare, and we maintain much of our social and commercial livelihood with friends and establishments that reside on the other side of the proposed Canadian National freight lines. The proposed increase of train traffic through Barrington will directly impact our daily routines and lives.

Our heightened sense of concern comes from living in Fox River Grove which has the unfortunate distinction of maintaining a memorial to the 7 children who died in October 1995 when their bus was struck by a train. We know that despite precautions, education, and warnings increasing rail traffic does increase the likelihood of fatal incidents. Having two children of our own one of whom is in elementary school across the NW lines, we understand and echo the concerns of parents in the Barrington area whose bused students will necessarily need to cross the tracks to and from school each day.

We like Barrington. My wife has been a banker in town for nearly 12 years. We have frequented the restaurants and movie theater of downtown over the years and our church for the last 13 years is headquartered in South Barrington – all of which are now on the other sides of the tracks for us. The inconvenience stemming from 20+ daily freight trains of 7,000-10,000 feet in length will drive us to instead focus on commerce to the west in Crystal Lake. In fact, between the NW line and the CN lines, we will find ourselves boxed into a quadrant that pushes us to find options only to the north and west of us.

We are users of Good Shepherd Hospital on Rte 22 in Barrington. We delivered both of our kids there, the first of which occurred when we lived in Lake Zurich. I am grateful that on that car ride we were NOT stopped by a 4-6 minute long freight train. While we are now favorably located on the same side of the tracks as the hospital, we empathize deeply with the many people who would see their medical and/or emergency care interrupted by all cross roads being strangled. This train artery with its potential to block all Barrington cross roads at one time while also blocking NW trains which in turn block those sub-arteries creates a dangerous dynamic for those of us who need ready access to hospital care.

Thank you for researching this proposal and listening to the ~~citizens it would affect~~

Sincerely,


Steven M. Bond

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