

Thank you. As a resident of Lake Zurich, and an active member of the Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to state my strong opposition to the Canadian National's acquisition of the EJ&E Rail. This acquisition will ruin the economy of our local communities. The State of Illinois and the Chicago metropolitan area can ill afford the negative consequences of this transaction.

CN should not be allowed to expedite the approval and acquisition processes in advance of the upcoming Presidential inauguration. This matter has such long term effects that it should be reviewed by the newly appointed STB members who will be in office to face the consequences of their decision.

The Lake Zurich Area Chamber of Commerce would like to go on record as strongly opposing this transaction for the following reasons:

- 1 Disruptions to current businesses, negative impact on property values and hesitancy to build will impair realization of current and future plans within Lake

Zurich's Downtown.

- 2 Additional delays from a 400% increase in train traffic will negatively impact public, vehicular and pedestrian safety.
- 3 Average train lengths of 10,000 feet will block all of our at-grade crossings bringing traffic through downtown to a standstill.
- 4 The added delay will increase emergency response times resulting in unnecessary loss of life.
- 5 Community School District 95 buses cross the Village's at-grade crossings 233 times per day, which means an increase in train/school bus conflicts.
- 6 This transaction will also seriously jeopardize the proposed STAR Line's viability to relieve the region's traffic congestion and improve air quality.

The STB must require CN to be 100% financially

accountable to mitigate all of the adverse public safety and environmental impacts imparted on the effected communities. Such as:

- 1 The 400% increase in freight traffic will make areas planned or approved for residential and other uses no longer viable projects plus our current road infrastructure can not handle the vehicular traffic congestion which will be created by this large of an increase in rail traffic.
- 2 Greater train frequency through our town will increase the probability of rail related accidents. The installation of barrier walls as well as pedestrian crossing bridges and controlled access points should be provided at no cost to Lake Zurich.
- 3 Local emergency service responders must receive a detailed manifest of all hazardous materials being transported. Response training, evacuation planning, and recovery resources as it relates to the hazards being transported should be provided at no cost to Lake Zurich.

- 4 The Quiet Zone currently in place through Lake Zurich should be maintained and honored by CN. CN should also contact property owner residing within 500 feet of the tracks to install noise walls or other types of sound barriers at no cost to Lake Zurich or its residents.
- 5 CN should fund construction of overpasses and/or underpasses to minimize traffic backups through town.

In closing, I would recommend that the STB rejects the CN's proposal to acquire the EJ&E Rail line given the catastrophic impact it will have in Lake Zurich and all of the affected communities.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

(NAME) *Theresa M. DeL...*
(ADDRESS) *614 Appleton Lane*
Lake Zurich, IL 60047