

August 26, 3008

Comments at STB Public Hearing, Mundelein

By Vanessa Griffin, resident of Hawthorn Woods, IL

So Canadian National wants to be our new neighbor and run their two-mile long freight trains through our communities. We have considered their plan to enrich a handful of already wealthy Canadians, and we say no.

- No to their **corporate bullying** of small municipalities like Mundelein, Hawthorn Woods and Lake Zurich.
- No to their two **mile-long trains that will block our communities' main thoroughfares** and prevent ambulances from getting sick people to medical care and firetrucks to community emergencies.
- No to their **toxic cargoes** that could derail and harm our schools, our homes, our kids.
- No to their plan to use a rail line not designed to carry the trains they plan to run on it without spending a cent on the grade crossings needed to ensure the safety for our communities.
- No to their sly gamesmanship and their clever lobbying tricks that skirt our legislative processes.
- No to their arrogance in refusing to answer our community leaders' legitimate questions.
- No to their plan to extract their shareholder's handsome profits at the expense of our municipal budgets, our home values and our quality of life.

To those of you who want our communities to share CN's train traffic with you, I ask, will this corporation, in its dogged pursuit of profits and the completion of a rich man's legacy, spare you any more than it will spare us? I doubt it.

No one who lives near tracks expects everything to stay the same. And if CN had told us it would be paying to mitigate the community impact at key crossings, or expanding its traffic in ways that take into account the safety and security of our communities, the outcry from communities may not have been so loud and immediate.

CN demonstrates a shameless disregard and disrespect for the communities its actions impact. Let's use the rail lines to transport goods in more efficient ways. Let's get trucks off the road. But let's expect the company who will benefit from this extraordinarily profitable work to pay its own way and offer our communities safety.

To CN, we say no.