

January 20, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket 35087

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Rec'd: _____

HDR File No. _____

Scanned (initials) _____

STABCT # _____

Cc: Original Job File

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

Eighteen and one half years ago we selected our home site based on knowledgeable information regarding our surroundings and preceded to build our final home. At that time we were well aware of the existing private E J & E rail line, owned by U. S. Steel, running past our backyard and accepted the fact that the trains would travel on the single rail line sporadically throughout the week.

Approximately three years after we moved into our residence the State of Illinois created a Citizens Advisory Committee to study the feasibility of routing the Fox Valley Freeway through the Fox Valley area. We joined this group and successfully defeated the freeway by supporting the State Senators and Representatives who also felt that the freeway was not in the best interests of the Fox Valley communities. They also were supportive in our efforts to encourage the use of more mass transit lines to help ease the traffic and the pollution it causes.

Now we are faced with another major issue, that being the purchase of the E J & E rail line by a foreign interest group namely the Canadian National Railway. If this purchase does happen we have been informed that an additional 20 freight trains of up to 1000 cars per train would be rumbling through our backyards day and night. Combine this with the 4 to 5 trains run by U. S. Steel this would average 1 freight train an hour every single day. And this most likely would increase if the sale goes through and the CN permits other railroads, such as the Burlington Northern, Santa Fe, Soo and others to use the single track rail line.

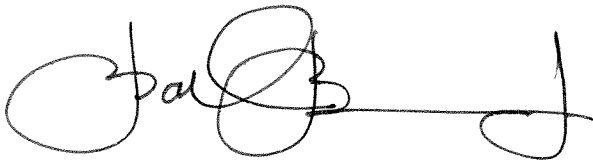
In reviewing the "track record" of the CN one notices that they average one derailment every 3 and ½ days with some of the derailments forcing out large populated areas due to chemical spills. I would encourage you to go to the web site entitled fightrailcongestion.com to see what the CN has not been telling such as numerous safety defects in their locomotives, code violations and brake problems with their trains.

We have also been informed that the existing single track transverses through communities such as Naperville and Barrington which, along with Elgin, have commuter lines crossing this track. Combine the delays for the commuter trains with approximately 130 plus vehicle crossings, the increase in rail traffic by some 500% would definitely cause major traffic delays which, in turn, would impact the environment with the exhaust pollution being emitted by idle cars, buses and semi-trucks.

To further exasperate the situation we have been told by the assessor's office that the assessment of our existing homes and properties would have no bearing on the relationship to the rail line even with the huge increase in freight traffic. With the increase of freight trains our resale values are estimated to drastically drop and there would be no tax relief. Therefore there is absolutely no benefit to the people who currently reside by and near the existing single track rail line nor is there any benefit to our environment should the CN succeed.

Without assistance from our elected public officials who represent their voting constituents, as opposed to foreign interest groups, there is little we can do at this time. Therefore, on behalf of thousands of voting homeowners who reside in your State and districts we urge you to join fight freight congestion and join us to help save our way of life and to help improve our existing environment. Please let your voice be heard on your position regarding this cause.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barton Barrow', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. & Mrs Barton Barrow
2603 Poplar View Bend
Elgin, Illinois 60120

President of the Chapel Creek Homeowners Association
Chairman of the Poplar Creek Valley Concerned Citizens.