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838 Harriet Lane
Barrington IL 60010
February 11, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

To Whom It May Concern:

I have always valued my community and my neighbors, not just when things are going well, but when the tide turns—how they act in an emergency, illness, or tragedy. Now I ask if Canadian National will be a good neighbor; will it respect the people of Barrington, their health, safety, and environment if there is an accident or derailment involving its freight trains.

On August 3rd, 2005, 43 cars of a Canadian National freight train derailed near Whitewood Sands, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, spilling up to 343,000 gallons of heavy bunker C fuel oil. An estimated 194,000 gallons of the thick, dark material was spread by high winds across five miles of the surface of Lake Wabamun, one of the finest whitefish lakes in the Edmonton area. Volunteers soon began placing booms and absorbent material to protect the shoreline and others came to rescue hundreds of oil-slicked birds.

It was not until four days after the derailment that CN revealed that a "hazardous chemical" had spilled into the lake in addition to the heavy bunker C fuel oil. Approximately 185,000 gallons of Imperial Pole Treating Oil, containing naphthalene and other highly toxic hydrocarbons suspected of being carcinogens, had also escaped. Residents were told to stop drinking lake and well water and warned to not even use local water on gardens and lawns. Public outrage was expressed against CN for not informing the community earlier of this hazard before many people, including children, were avoidably exposed.

This incident tells me that Canadian National Railway, when faced with an accident, incident, or derailment, is not a good neighbor. I ask that the Surface Transportation Board not allow this entity to risk our health, safety, and environment. Please deny Canadian National's plans to acquire the EJ&E railroad with the potential for disaster this purchase would have on Chicago's northwest suburbs.

Sincerely,



Paul S. Quigg
847/381-6695

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