

ISSUE: Sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company to the Canadian National Railway Company

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board:

Please be aware that the sale of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company to the Canadian Railway Company will have a very direct and negative impact on my family's quality of life and the overall quality of the community. Please note the following main reasons:

1. Crossing safety - All of the at grade crossing in the Aurora area will need to be upgraded. Who is going to pay for the upgrades? As a tax payer, it is not fair to have to pay for at-grade railroad crossing improvements, when the benefit of the rail-line is for a corporation. I demand that Canadian National pay for ALL railroad crossing improvements needed to allow for the safe use of the rail line.
2. Increased travel times / congestion: Already the suburbs have outrageous traffic congestions issues. Adding train traffic to the EJ&E line will only make matters much worse. Canadian National should be forced to pay for ALL traffic mitigation plans needed to keep traffic congestions to pre-sale levels.
3. Increased NOISE pollution – This is probably the greatest impact to my family. With 40+ trains a day, Canadian National needs to implement a noise mitigation plan.
4. Emergency Response times : City planners in the suburbs did not expect 40+ trains per day. Emergency response patterns will be greatly effected by the increase in train traffic.
5. Vibration - Who is going to pay for my foundation repairs when the vibration from 40+ trains cracks my foundation?

You all have families – for once can you as a board vote for maintaining the quality of family life over corporate interests? Canadian National wants to purchase the EJ& E line to improve their bottom line. They will not take into consideration the communities they are effecting,. They will not limit the train traffic to keep within the 40 train limit they are proposing. They will not have to pay for the improvements necessary to maintain a safe community. They will, however, take advantage of you and our community.