

03071 . UNKNOWN. MERVINE. PCT. 60504. O.N.

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Docket #: FD 35087 - -

Subject: * Environmental Filing STB Finance Docket No. 35087
 First Name: * Richard
 Middle Name:
 Last Name: * Mervine
 Address: * 690 Waterbury Drive

City: * Aurora
 State: * IL
 Zip Code: * 60504-5277
 Email Address: * rickmerv@aol.com
 Group/Affiliation: * concerned resident
 Message:

In the matter of the Canadian National purchase of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad, I want to register my complete opposition to this sale on the grounds it will create severe transportation hardship for our area. Our railroad crossings, many of them at grade level, run through a highly populated and vehicle congested area. In a 6 mile run of the tracks through our particular area, the total population affected exceeds 400,000 people including the number 2 (Aurora) and number 4 (Naperville) largest cities in Illinois. Tracks back up to residential areas in this stretch crossing a series of major transportation routes, most at grade level. In addition, there are 3 high schools and some 30 middle and elementary schools in the area these tracks traverse. School buses run for some 5 to 6 hours a day in this area to meet the staggered start and finish times of these schools on a very tight schedule, one not allowing for the proposed frequent interruption by grade level stoppages by 2 long 100 car freight trains an hour instead of the current 4 trains during a 24 hour period. In addition, we have been hoping for the addition of the proposed STAR Line of commuter rail to run North & South through our current commuter rail system using this set of tracks. This is something that has been in the works for many years and would be highly beneficial to the area. While we are aware this would increase rail traffic as well, it would mean 4 to 6 rail cars each train instead of 100 freight cars and would show a benefit to the residents in the area connecting them to the airport and other parts of the Chicago Metro area for work. Along with this STAR Line would come corrections to the current grade level crossings as part of the plan. While I know this CN sale will help ease congestion in Chicago, we have been the victims in the past few years of Chicago pushing off some of their problems on us here. This just adds to it. I oppose this move and join the many others in the area in that opposition. I respectfully request you deny this action and not approve the Canadian National sale. Thank you. Rick Mervine

Surface Transportation Board
 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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