

August 27, 2008

STB Open House/Public Meeting
Barrington High School
616 West Main Street

Comments for submission from:

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To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this written submission as a voice AGAINST the purchase of the EJ&E by CN.

1. The safety of our children will be severely NEGATIVELY impacted. Over 800 District 220 buses cross the tracks every day. The risk of a freight train hitting a busload of children is very high. The Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) has reported that the safety of school busses and children crossing the tracks will be impacted. There are lives at stake and the purchase a use of the railroad will put children at risk of death.
2. The Canadian National Safety Record is one of the worst in the railroad industry. CN has been sited for significant and hazardous material derailment in Canada. They have been cited by the Canadian government for their poor safety record – with no mitigation. There are several environmentally ecological areas that could not survive a spillage of any kind. More importantly, the tracks run thru heavy residential areas. One close “mishap” could result in the deaths of innocent people. A significant derailment could result in dozens, if not hundreds of deaths.
3. Emergency Responses for our community. Ambulance, Fire Department and Police response will be severely negatively impacted by the additional trains that the CN will run on the tracks. The (DEIS) shows that the quality of life and the deterioration of emergency services would result in endangering the citizens of the communities impacted by this purchase.
4. Economic Impact for Communities. There will be significant economic NEGATIVE impact to our community and the communities due to delays in traffic and “flight” of businesses that can not survive the impact of gridlock.
5. Taxpayer burden for infrastructure and mitigation. CN has offered little to no funds for traffic and safety mitigation in the forms of bridges or safety improvements. The taxpayers in the areas affected by this purchase would be looking to spend BILLIONS of our dollars to clean up and support a private, non United States corporation.

Please recommend that CANADATION NATIONAL RAILROAD MAY NOT proceed with ANY plans to purchase or run trains on the EJ&E tracks. Our very lives depend on it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Colin Miller