

January 29, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

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

To the Transportation Safety Board:

Our family has lived in the Barrington school district since 2001. My wife's commute to Chicago takes her every weekday across the railway line which bisects Barrington and our village of Fox River Grove. My children travel also across that rail line every weekday to and from their schools, and I cross those tracks many times on an average day. The recent increase of traffic on the freight lines has added to our travel times. The dramatic increase proposed would radically alter our daily lives.

What is of greatest concern for parents living north of the tracks (as we do) is the difficulty of reaching our children at school in the event of an emergency. BOTH middle schools and the high school in our district are on the south side of the freight tracks, as is our daughter's elementary school.

Businesses in Barrington, especially retail shops, would also suffer greatly from increased rail traffic. Many people would shop in other towns rather than risk wasting time as they wait to cross the tracks in Barrington..

We also worry about how the ridiculously large increase in rail traffic would hurt the health and home values of families living close to the tracks. They bought their homes knowing that freight traffic was limited and occur mostly at night. This proposal would ruin both their quality of life and the resale value of their homes in an already abysmal real estate market.

Finally, given the risk of train derailments, your board should strongly object to this deal for Canadian National. The freight tracks involved are too close to homes, schools and commercial areas in our community. Any derailment involving toxic or flammable substance would be a catastrophe.

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Sincerely,

Brian G. Jenkins

Brian G. Jenkins

216 Bridle Path Lane

Fox River Grove, IL 60021