

Other Submissions

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Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: -#35087 - -

Subject: * Canadian National proposed aquisition of EJ&E Railway
 First Name: * John
 Middle Name: H.
 Last Name: * Ward
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 State: * Illinois
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 Group/Affiliation:

Message:

I am writing this to you to ask that the STB not approve the aquisition of the EJ&E Railway by Canadian National. I live in Barrington, IL, one of the many communities that will be severely impacted by the massive shift of CN freight trains to the EJ&E. The EJ&E would allow CN to enjoy greater profits for their Canadian based company at the direct expense of the vast number of US citizens who live on or near the EJ&E. It will also be at the expense of the many thousands of residents from other communities who travel to or through those EJ&E communities who will now be burdened with the overwhelming number and length of freight trains that CN is assuming to soon be running on the EJ&E.

Our town, already heavily burdened with enormous amounts of pass through car traffic due to northwest suburban home building expansion over the last 10 years coupled with a major Metra Train commuter line that runs through the center of our town along with freights already on the EJ&E, experiences major traffic and safety issues on a daily basis on the three major roads, IL Route 59, IL Route 14 and Lake Cook Road, which run through Barrington and all intersect with each other and all the train lines. The addition of 20 plus freight trains per day on the EJ&E will create massive traffic grid-lock where our businesses are trying to survive, our children are trying to go to school and emergency vehicles and services are trying to keep us safe. Our town will be virtually un-inhabitable if you allow this purchase to go through.

The approved purchase by this foreign company will destroy the values of our homes, our investments in our schools, parks and community, our environment and the ability to live and raise our families in this community. Many of us would likely have to move to other towns to seek relief from what CN is planning to do to our town and the other communities along the the EJ&E. These massive trains, some with hazardous materials, will be running in close proximity to our homes as well as a number of our grade schools and middle schools. We currently have 840 school bus crossings per school day over the EJ&E tracks all of which will be adversely impacted and create numerous safety issues. The EJ&E runs within 600 feet of our high school. It crosses

Lake Cook Road just east of the high school building itself. Approximately 3,000 children attend that high school, the majority of whom would now have to run in front of the many CN freight trains or wait indefinitely each day on foot, bike, car or bus to navigate over the tracks safely to and from school each day. The thought of an accident or hazardous material spill is an unthinkable tragedy just waiting to happen.

I ask that you please weigh the increased profitability of a foreign company versus the severe negative impact on Barrington and all the other communities bordering the EJ&E. We all ask that you carefully consider the major economic and safety impact this would have on us and deny Canadian National's request to acquire the EJ&E Railway.

Sincerely,

John H. Ward