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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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To Whom It May Concern:

HDR

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Wicklow Village, a Lake Zurich neighborhood which sets up against a portion of the EJ&E train line. I understand that the Surface Transportation Board is considering the environmental impacts of Canadian National Railroad's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E line and increased freight traffic running over this line.

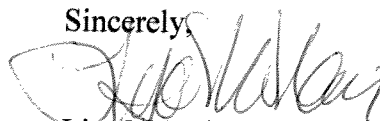
I would like to convey my serious concerns about this acquisition and the proposed increase in the number of trains carrying potentially hazardous materials across this line. This line runs through neighborhoods in the communities of Lake Zurich and Hawthorn Woods, in addition to other communities. It also runs past public and private schools, our YMCA, a water park, community parks and critical intersections in our town. The safety of not only our children but of all residents of Lake Zurich and surrounding communities will be greatly impacted by this acquisition and increased freight traffic.

The park and playground in our neighborhood, along with the high-usage soccer and baseball fields, run up against the train line. Putting aside the noise, disruption and inconvenience caused by increased freight traffic, there are children playing in areas right next to where these trains are running. There is only a wooden fence protecting the children from the train traffic and not even that in some of the areas. Increased freight traffic with longer trains expected to carry more hazardous materials will present a serious threat to the safety and well-being of not only our neighborhood children but all children and families that come to visit and use these recreational facilities.

In addition to our neighborhood parks and fields, this train line runs right next to grammar school and high school buildings, playgrounds and sports fields. Increased freight traffic carrying hazardous materials will not only cause noise in the classroom and disruption to the learning process, the safety of hundreds of children playing and running right next to these trains will be compromised.

As aggravating and disruptive as the increased noise, traffic congestion and pollution will be, the risk of danger and threat of personal injury to our children presented by the proposed acquisition by Canadian National Railroad of the EJ&E line cannot be ignored. It is my personal plea that our government will work to stop this proposed acquisition to protect the welfare and safety of the residents of not only my neighborhood but our town and the entire region. Thank you for your careful consideration of this serious problem.

Sincerely,



Lisa McNair