

August 27, 2008

To: Members of Surface Transportation Board
From: Jack and Donna Mulholland
Subject: Acquisition of EJ&E by CN

As forty-year residents of Barrington, we long ago learned to coordinate our movements through downtown with the arrival and departure of commuter trains during "rush hour". The response of emergency (police and fire) was not an issue because we live east of the tracks and emergency vehicles were able to respond without crossing a railroad track. Fortunately, our emergencies have always occurred at home.

However, with the proposed acquisition of EJ&E by CN, many people in the Barrington area will be put at great risk in emergency situations; the back-up of vehicles waiting to cross the tracks will create total deadlock many miles around the downtown area and undoubtedly adversely affect the movement of police and fire personnel even to the eastern edge of the village where we live.

Continual movement of trains through the area will subject every aspect of the village and the surrounding towns to environmental deterioration: noise pollution is the most obvious, but littering by waiting car passengers and pedestrians must be considered. Trains are powered by petrochemicals that emit carbons and noxious elements into the atmosphere.

Citizens who live near the EJ&E tracks will suffer a marked depreciation of property values. Are we so committed to international commerce (labor in Canada and China will be beneficiaries of this move, not the working people in the United States) that we must sacrifice the hopes and dreams of the American citizens who have managed to achieve home ownership?

We urge the members of the Board to thoughtfully consider the many ramifications of their final vote and to reject the proposed sale of EJ&E to CN.

Donna P Mulholland