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January 28, 2008

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

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing

RE: Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Honorable Anne Quinlan:

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Naperville, Illinois, one of the suburban communities of Chicago sure to be negatively impacted by Canadian National's (CN) acquisition of existing railroad tracks, construction of new tracks, and increased operations. The environmental impacts of nearly 20 miles of new railway and increased operations could be significant to everyone; certainly, for those of us who live, work and play in an area where double-tracking is proposed, the negative impacts **will be** significant.

Thousands of children attend schools within a half-mile of the railroad tracks!

The dozens of schools that are located along this alignment will feel the impacts of noise and vibration – likely during construction as well as when operations are increased. The list of nearby schools is long and includes Peterson Elementary School, Crone Middle School and Plainfield High School to name just a few. Will the children be able to focus and achieve to their greatest aptitude?

The issues caused by the numerous grade crossings amount to more than slight annoyances for these children and include poor air quality caused by vehicle delays and increased accident probability. Because land use is such that residences are separated from the schools by the railroad tracks, children are crossing these tracks a minimum of two times each day.

My research has shown that 1) the number of accidents and derailments CN has is not infrequent and 2) due to the nature of the hazardous chemicals that CN transports, these accidents can be catastrophic. I am extremely concerned about the increase of the transportation hazardous chemicals combined with the double tracking. I fear that the probability for a tragic accident is high. What are the plans for evacuation of the schools, if there is a spill of hazardous chemicals right outside their doors?

I understand that the Board will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); please do not rush this process as the impacts are significant. I look forward to the opportunity to review this document.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,

Deborah L. Wray

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