

January 11, 2008

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I am writing to you today to appose the purchase of the EJ&E line by CN. This will destroy the communities surrounding the EJ&E line at both a human and environmental cost.

The time for emergency vehicles to respond will be impacted. A fire doubles in size every minute. A five minute delay in fire response time to a burning building will mean the difference between rescue and fatalities. Since the EJ&E bifurcates our region, emergency vehicle response time will increase.

Our school district covers an area of 90 square miles, so our school buses cross the rail line nearly 400 times daily. The safety of our children is at risk with the looming threat of heavy freight trains barreling down the tracks 20 times a day. The additional vehicle congestion will be increased as the cars must wait for the mile and a half freight trains to go through every hour.

The rails are nearly 100 years old and in deplorable condition. Capital expenditures have not been made to keep up the rail line a \$100 million dollar infusion by CN will not cover the necessary repairs. The \$100 expenditure by CN is to upgrade the lines where they terminate so the can accommodate the increased amount of freight, not to tend to the current condition of the rails. EJ&E has failed to keep up the tracks. These tracks can not handle any additional train traffic or weight. **These tracks should be condemned and turned into a trail system for the millions of people who live in the surrounding communities.**

The **Flint Creek Watershed** is the home of many endangered and rare plants and animals. If CN is allowed to increase traffic on the EJ&E line many of these species will die out and the cost to our society will be unquantifiable. The mating and feeding patterns of these animals are already disturbed by the EJ&E line which we need to address, let alone allow these levels of disturbance to be increased. Please view the website www.flintcreekwatershed.com for additional information on the watershed and its importance to not only Barrington but all of the surrounding communities which this body of water provides fresh drinking water. Where is the EPA? Why have they not investigated this situation? Why can we not close down the rail line and turn it into a nature trail? **Can we not incorporate the line into the "rails to trails" program?**

Sincerely,



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Surface Transportation Board*

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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