

RE: CN acquisition of EJ&E

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Frankfort, IL. 3 years ago, my family made the decision to move to this peaceful town from a town crowded with train traffic in Cook County. We saw this as the ideal place to raise my three very young boys. When we purchased our property, we knew that we were going to have an occasional train come by, and I actually thought it would be fun for my sons since they were into trains. But I was prepared for 5 trains a day, not more than 1 train per hour! Not 2 diesel engines. Not hazardous wastes going next to my house and my children's school. Not 2 mile long trains.

Now our lives are going to change, irrevocably, if you allow this nightmare to pass! Last night, I opened the windows of my home to let in the cool fresh air. It dawned on me, then and there, that if this acquisition went through, I would no longer be able to open my windows! The constant noise and vibrations of the trains as well as the diesel fumes would make this impossible. I currently listen to the frogs, the crickets and a small pond bubbling behind my house. With the CN coming in, I will only hear the blasting of horns and the vibrations of the train as it roars next to my home. Every time I put my baby down for a nap, I will worry, not if, but when, he will wake up due to a train coming by!

I also have to worry about the safety of my children. With three boys, we know the interest and curiosity of trains and their tracks. I currently only have around 5 trains a day, most which move at night, to worry about. However, with the proposed 28 trains a day and most likely more in the future, I will need to worry constantly about my children as they grow up. I am including pictures of my children so you will see and understand what we are trying to protect by stopping this acquisition!

Yesterday, I drove my 3 year old to preschool. We must cross the tracks, as most of the towns that are affected by this purchase are split in the middle by the tracks. As I got to the crossings, we had a train moving. It is not typical to have a train at this time, but occasionally it happens. As I was waiting at our end of the crossing, I noticed a fire truck with its lights on, on the other side. It really put into perspective what this acquisition is going to mean to all of us if we need emergency help! I am certainly happy that I was not the one that was waiting for that fire truck to come to my rescue! This train was a short train. I cannot imagine a 2 mile long one in its place.

You know, it is easy to make a decision on something that doesn't affect you directly. What I would like to ask is that you put yourself in our shoes. Here we have a foreign company, one reputed for its greed and irresponsible business dealings, coming to our American towns and communities and truthfully, destroying our way of life. Our children are in danger, our schools are in danger, our emergency response is in danger, the value of our homes is in danger, and our quality of life is in danger with this acquisition. I wish I could say that at least CN has our interest at heart, but we know better. It all comes down to dollars and cents and whoever they walk over in the process doesn't mean a thing. I would hope, and pray daily, that our government would put the interests of its American people above those of a foreign company!

I implore you to take a close look at what this purchase is going to do to tens of thousands of American families and do the RIGHT thing! Say NO! to the CN acquisition!

Thank you for your time. My children, my husband and my self appreciate your protection of our American way of life.


Christine Fenlon

