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January 24, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

FDX

We are writing in opposition to the proposed Canadian National Railway (CN) acquisition of Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway (EJ&E). Our home is next to the EJ&E tracks and our concerns are numerous:

- 1) Noise - increasing the daily train volume from about 3 per day to upwards of 25-30 will create a substantial and dramatic increase in noise pollution and will destroy the peacefulness of our neighborhood.
- 2) Air pollution - the increase in trains will create an intolerable level of air pollution that will be detrimental to our health and that of our neighbors. We can attest first hand that the pollution is visibly noticeable and often nauseating in the first minute or so when a train passes by. Three trains a day is tolerable but we can not even begin to imagine what the air will be like if the volume of trains increase to 25-30 trains a day as CN proposes. The EJ&E tracks are also very near three Barrington schools so the increased air pollution will be detrimental to thousands of children.
3. Water - our home (and the entire village of Barrington Hills and several surrounding communities) utilizes a well as our source of drinking water. A derailment could easily pollute our water system and a derailment becomes much more likely as the volume of train traffic is increased.
4. Vibration - Our house shakes noticeably when a large train passes by. I am concerned that the larger and longer CN trains will vibrate our house to the degree that it is damaged, including the possibility of structural damage that makes the house unsafe or uninhabitable.

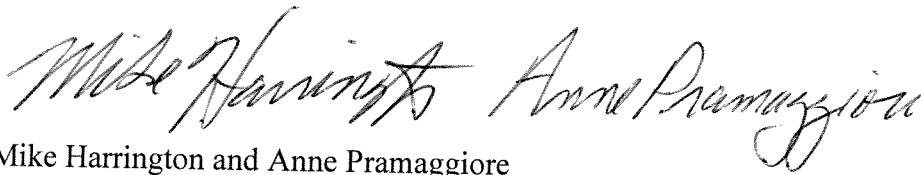
5. Safety - The greater frequency and volume of CN trains will negatively affect our access to police, fire and ambulance protection.

6. Traffic Congestion and Lost efficiency - My wife and I, along with thousands of others, have to cross the EJ&E tracks twice daily to get to work. The longer and more frequent CN trains will undoubtedly delay our daily commute which decreases our productivity, contributes to air pollution and detracts from quality of life.

7. Damage to Property Value - The increased train traffic, combined with the quality-of-life and safety factors described above, will undoubtedly decrease the value of our property. I am guessing that the value would fall by at least half and there is the very real possibility that our home could become unmarketable. My wife and I have worked and saved our entire lives to be able to pay for our home and we are terrified that the value of our investment will evaporate if the CN acquisition is approved.

We appreciate the STB's consideration of our concerns and hope that you understand that the proposed CN acquisition will have a severely negative impact upon us and our neighbors. We invite the STB to contact us for more information. We also welcome you and your colleagues at the STB to visit our home to experience first hand the noise, vibration and air pollution.

Sincerely,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Mike Harrington' and the second is 'Anne Pramaggiore'. They are written in dark ink and are positioned above the printed names.

Mike Harrington and Anne Pramaggiore

P.S. We can personally attest that CN railway is already utilizing the EJ&E tracks. While we are not experts on the rules and regulations surrounding this issue, we firmly believe that the many issues raised should be addressed prior to CN's utilization of the EJ&E tracks. It also causes us to wonder if CN has any intention of ever being considerate of the concerns raised by those who are most immediately and negatively affected by their proposed acquisition.