

August 27, 2008

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

Ref: STB Finance Docket 35087

To the Surface Transportation Board:

We were extremely dismayed to read your Draft Environmental Impact Study regarding the Canadian National proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad.

My husband and I have lived in Barrington for over 32 years. We have invested our life savings in our home and have worked tirelessly to make Barrington an excellent community with excellent schools. If you allow this proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railroad, you will absolutely destroy the Barrington Community. Not only will all of our home values decline, but this increased train traffic will create severe safety issues. Our emergency services will be unable to provide police or fire protection in a timely manner. The EJ&E tracks cross all three of our major streets, and one train from Canadian National can close off all three arteries at one time. All of our school children will be put at risk due to this increased train traffic. Because of traffic congestion caused by more trains, the air quality of Barrington will certainly deteriorate.

Traffic delays caused by more trains will also have a negative impact on our downtown retailers. No one will want to shop in our village, hence we will have diminished tax revenue and a ghost town instead of a vibrant community center.

We don't feel that you fairly addressed mitigation expenses or safety issues for our community. In addition, we don't

understand how DEIS only recognized that Route 59/Hough St. should be grade separated? Route 14/Northwest Highway is the most traveled road in town and Lake Cook Road is also a big one. All of these roads backup traffic into each other. Why was a rail-to-rail separation not recognized at the Union Pacific/EJ&E crossing? This will no doubt have a major impact on the Metra commuter service. we strongly feel that CN should bear the burden of **all** mitigation expenses, not the taxpayers. CN is the only one profiting from this proposal, not Barrington or any of the other communities affected by this purchase.

Please take another look at situation. U. S. taxpayers should not have to suffer for the benefit of a foreign corporation.

Sincerely,

Julie Kerr
James Kerr

Julie & James Kerr
971 Fairway Circle
Barrington, IL 60010