

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington DC 20423

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

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Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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I am writing with my concerns regarding the above cited issue. I am ~~not an~~ attorney, politician, accountant or in real estate sales. I am a homeowner who lives less than 150 yards from the EJ&E tracks that are involved in the proposed acquisition by CN. I have lived here for almost eight years now and I love the area. Yes, I even enjoy hearing the sound of the train whistle 3 - 4 times a day. As I understand it, the proposal that is on the table by CN will impact on my life and the lives on my neighbors and my community in **only** negative ways. May I list a few:

- Children who travel to Lake Zurich or Barrington schools will be impacted severely by the proposed increase in train traffic. Presently children who live in my area are frequently late for school or late in connecting with parents or childcare providers after school due to the length of trains and the fact the trains frequently (often more than once a day) stop, blocking road crossings at Ela Road, Cuba Road, Lake Zurich Road **and/or** Hough St for extended periods of time. CN wants to both lengthen the trains to over a mile **and** increase the number to 20 - 25 per day????? This can only impact on the school age children and their families in a negative manner.
- In the last twelve months, trains were involved in the deaths of at least three people in the Barrington Village area alone. Will we have to multiply this death rate by a factor of 500% due to the increase in proposed train traffic???
- Since it is possible that the crossings at Ela, Cuba, Lake Zurich Rd, and Hough could simultaneously be blocked due to stopped trains, how will emergency vehicles and personnel be able to assist people when they most desperately need them?
- Young children who play in my area (Hillview Estates & Braemar) will be in greater danger of being injured (or worse) by trains because it is forbidden by local ordinance to erect any type of fence to protect them from the tracks. Remember, it is proposed to have an increase of 500% in train traffic, so this is no small concern. Would you want your children or grandchildren playing in this dangerous environment?
- The noise pollution from the whistles of the trains and the screeching of the train wheels will become much more than just a nuisance. It will interrupt the quality of our lives 24 hours a day!

- Finally I want to address the fact that if this proposed acquisition is approved, the depreciation in the value of our homes would be **monumental**. Many of us have purchased homes in this area as a means to increase our net worth for our future years. Our homes are a major investment in our financial portfolio. This acquisition would negatively impact on the monies I am counting on for my retirement years. It feels as though someone put their hands directly into my savings account and robbed me of tens of thousands of dollars. Even though the identity of this thief is known, no action will be taken against them to hold them responsible for this theft. It is quite frightening for me not knowing if I will have enough funds to support myself if I cannot sell my home for a reasonable price. There will be nothing reasonable in the purchase price of my home, if this acquisition is approved. What gives CN the right to steal the quality of my future from me, my neighbors and my community?

In closing, I do not understand why the present track route around the Buffalo Grove area is not going to be used in this proposal. It is my understanding that the train traffic there will decrease from 20 - 25 trains daily to 3 - 5 trains daily. That area has had 20 - 25 trains running through it for almost 20 years. The development of that area has been made and adjusted to the fact that those trains were running with that much frequency. Any development or lack of development in that area was made with the awareness of the rail system. Their adjustment was on-going. BUT, the investments in our homes, parks, schools, etc. have already been made. There is no way for us to adjust now. We cannot continue to improve on the quality of our futures and our lives if this proposal is approved. Please, please seriously consider maintaining the train routes where they've been for years and years.

Thank you for the attention you have given to my letter and my concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



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