

Phyllis Johnson-Ball
STB Finance Docket No. 35087
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001

August, 27, 2008

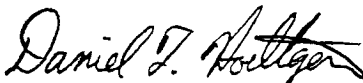
To the Section of Environmental Analysis and to the Surface Transportation Board:

I strongly urge you to not approve Canadian National's proposal to make the EJ&E line a "rail superhighway." This action only relocates environmental threats to communities that have little or no infrastructure to safely co-exist with 20-plus trains per day. We have no under-or overpasses to ensure critical medical care is available for critically ill or injured Barrington area residents.

As a Trauma Surgeon I am very aware of the time sensitive needs of the trauma patients that come to our Level II trauma center. The first hour of care to the traumatically injured patient can mean the difference between life and death. It has been demonstrated through extensive research that the first "golden hour" after injury is the most crucial time to perform life-saving treatments to these patients. As a result, of the Canadian National's proposal to make the EJ&E line a "rail superhighway," patient outcomes will suffer, and mortality rates for these patients will certainly increase as a result of delayed treatment due to re-routing to other area hospitals farther away. As a Trauma Surgeon at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, I am very concerned at how little the federal environmental impact statement analyzed access to our emergency medical facility, these communities' closest source for critical care, trauma, emergency services and the best comprehensive cardiac care in the area.

I urge the board not to approve the proposed action in its current form, without insisting on substantive mitigation and infrastructure investment, and just as importantly, who and how it will be funded and how soon it can be constructed.

Very Sincerely,



Daniel Hoeltgen, MD
Trauma Medical Director

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital
27750 West Highway 22, Suite 130 Barrington, IL 60010

847-381-6051