

02272.010908. KOLAR. PCTZ. 20010.0.N.

Mary P. Kolar
560 Golfview Drive,
North Barrington, Illinois 60010

January 9, 2008

TO: The U.S. Surface Transportation Board
Dear Madam or sir,

I am a long time resident of North Barrington. My Family and I have lived in the area for almost 28 years. I live in North Barrington and work in Carpentersville for Barrington Community Unit School District 220. This requires me to cross the train rails more than twice a day. I am very concerned about the EJ&E Rail Line merger with the CN Line and the impact this merger will have on safety, traffic congestion, noise, home values and the quality of life in our communities.

Currently 3-5 freight trains pass through the Barrington area every day. I am often caught waiting to cross as a freight train goes by, sometimes twice in a given day! CN states that an **additional 15 trains or more per day** will be added to the line! This will mean terrible inconvenience and frustration for the residents in the Barrington area. I can't imagine the backups, as **CN also states that the freight trains going through Barrington and the surrounding area will be 7,000 to 10,000 feet in length!**

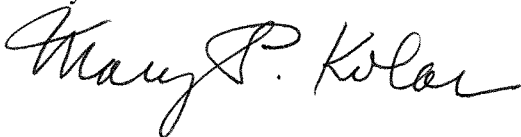
As you, the **STB**, have the authority to approve this merger, it is also incumbent upon you **to take your duty to consider the environmental impacts CN's Chicago bypass would have on the Barrington area and surrounding communities very seriously before the acquisition is approved.**

Considerations like noise, traffic congestion and the noxious emission from idling cars that have to wait over 6+ minutes each time one of the 20 trains goes through our town need to be addressed. What about even more important concerns like dramatically increased Fire Department and EMS response times, to say nothing about traffic flow and grade crossing safety.

Along with the many CUSD220 employees like me - high school, middle school and elementary school-aged children will all be impacted by this merger. The Barrington School Board reports that **school buses cross the EJ&E Line 400 times per day!** Because we are a large CUSD, the locations of our high school and middle schools will affect every student in our district as each student will have to cross the EJ&E line to get to them! The STB needs to address these problems.

Just going to school, shopping, patronizing small businesses, or getting to the doctor's office or Good Shepard Hospital will be a nightmare. It shouldn't be! I respectfully request that the STB makes sure that any approval of the CN acquisition of EJ&E line be contingent upon enforceable conditions to mitigate the adverse impact it will have in the Barrington area. Please work with our elected federal and state and local representatives to protect the Barrington area Communities' interests. Thank you.

Mary P. Kolar



Submitted to: _____
CN File # _____
Log and Distribution _____
Date Rec'd _____
HDR File No. _____

Scanned (Initial): _____
STABCT#: _____
Cc: Original - Job File

