

13893

Other Submissions

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Docket #:

Subject: * CN & EJ & E RR
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Message:

I am writing to express my opinion on the CN purchase of the EJ & E railroad line. I built my home a few years ago in New Lenox, IL. My house is situated between Route 30, Laraway Road, Spencer Road and Schoolhouse Road. My husband and I drove around town and saw that there would be a freight line near our home, but after several visits we realized that there were very few trains using the line. We decided to build.

Now that we are in our home we have discovered that we hear the train traffic. We even hear it when the windows closed, but since the trains are few and infrequent it does not affect the quality of our life. In a sense, it reminds us of our nation's past when trains were a new and exciting form of technology. In three years, I can only remember being stopped at the tracks on the way to the grocery store once or twice. The railroad line is currently a non-issue.

The CN acquisition of the EJ & E railroad line will negatively impact my quality of life. I will not only hear the trains more frequently, but more hazardous waste will travel through my town. I will likely be stopped any time I wish to travel south on Schoolhouse or Spencer Roads whether it is to visit a friend, go to the local grocery store or visit the elementary school. Luckily I live north of the rail line and it will not affect the ability of emergency responders to save my life or help me in a time of crisis. Anyone living south of the rail line will not be so lucky.

On top of this CN is not paying to improve the roads that will be impacted by their increased railroad usage. I have to foot 90-95% of the bill for overpasses or underpasses! CN is a for-profit company. Why should I help CN make more money? It doesn't make sense! I don't want the increased rail traffic and then I have to pay so the traffic won't affect my travels. I will still have to hear it. I will still have to worry about the increased risk of an accident with a train -- a train that might even contain hazardous waste. And then to add insult to injury I have to pay for it! It is disgusting and an abuse of power.

The increase in rail traffic should be blocked. I haven't talked to a neighbor who wants it. I haven't read an article in any of the local papers that supports it. Why would anyone want it? Is there a benefit for the communities it impacts? What does New Lenox gain? What does anyone gain from the increased rail traffic?

This is how the acquisition impacts me:

- More noise
- Less money
- More idle time in my car
- Slower emergency response times
- Increased risk of a train accident

Stop the increase in rail traffic. Don't insult the taxpayers by forcing us to pay for something we don't want.

Sincerely,

Ellen Sopp Baskind