

Other Submissions

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Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: * STB Finance Docket No. 35087
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Group/Affiliation:
Message:

I am writing you in regard to the Canadian National RR acquisition of the E, J & E Railroad, a transaction that will impact thousands of people in the Lake Zurich and Barrington Community. The proposed sale of the railroad would drive down the property values in our community, increase the pollutants surrounding our home, jeopardize the safety of our children, and drain our fuel tanks as our cars remain idle in traffic congestion.

Like so many of my neighbors, my family have seen a drastic reduction in the value of our home in the past two years. The sale of the railroad would perpetuate the downward spiral of our home's value, forcing my family and many families in our community to sell our home at a "firesale" price. Some of my neighbors have already sold their home at discounts that exceed 30 percent. If my neighbors and I choose to stay in our home, we will be forced to pay for structural repair of our home due to the vibrations produced the rail traffic.

I am also concerned with the impact on our community and environment. Freight Cars that run through our backyard will be hauling chemicals that are harmful to the environment. The train runs through our backyards where our children play, and they will be exposed to the toxic pollutants that are transported by the train. Furthermore, the tracks run through the Cuba Marsh, which is a major wildlife habitat in Lake County. The increase in train traffic displace wildlife and ruin the Forest Preserve.

There are many precautions that need to be made before any proposed sale of the tracks is approved. The tracks are easily accessible to children in the area and the crossing are not adequately safe. There have already been three train accidents involving pedestrians this year, and the increase in train traffic will only bring more accidents and fatalities. Furthermore, emergency personnel will not be able to cross the train tracks when performing emergency services, including situations at schools that need immediate attention, as trains as long as 2 miles will block all crossings in the community.

The backups resulting from blocked train crossings in our area are ridiculously long in our area at the present time (have you ever tried to go through downtown Barrington at rush hour?). The increase in rail traffic will only increase this wait time. The collective loss of gas per day resulting from cars waiting for passing trains will be enormous. At a time when oil prices are at record highs and food prices are soaring, we cannot afford to wait for trains.

Please stop the acquisition of acquisition! This is my first time to a "cause" because the sale of the railroad hits close to home...it will destroy our community!