

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
 Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
 Surface Transportation Board
 395 E Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20423

November 6, 2007

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Line operating in the greater Chicago suburbs. This matter warrants serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward as the current proposal poses dire consequences to our town and to our family's well being and safety.

Our family has lived in Barrington, Illinois for over 8 years. We live less than ½ mile from one of the EJ&E freight crossing. The drastic increase in freight traffic will affect the quality of life of our family and the quality of the environment in our community. Here's why:

- Barrington is Uniquely Impacted. BARRINGTON HAS SIX AT GRADE CROSSINGS ALONG THE EJ&E FREIGHT LINE! That doesn't include the Metra Commuter Train line and the Union Pacific Freight Line. The entire community will come to a stand still with this acquisition.
- Adding train lines will cause major congestion and impede commerce. ROUTE 14 AND ROUTE 59, TWO HEAVILY TRAFFICKED ROADS, ARE BOTH CUTOFF BY THE TRAIN LINE. The traffic through town is already unbearable during morning and evening rush and during the weekends.
- Public Safety. Emergency vehicle access to my home and to my daughters' schools, as well as to the local hospital, will be cut off. AMBULANCES AND FIRE AND POLICE ARE UNABLE TO CROSS TOWN when a train moves down that line. 20+ times per day and growing is unacceptable from a public safety stand point.
- Noise Pollution. Residents throughout Barrington are already woken during the night by the current traffic. An increase of this magnitude has PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS.
- Property Values will fall. According to Real Estate experts, my neighborhood of 51 homes stands to lose between \$5 – 8 Million in home value as a result of this train. The depreciation across town must be HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.
- Unrealistic Expectations. Compound every point above with the fact that BARRINGTON WILL SEE A DRAMATIC INCREASE WELL BEYOND THE INITIAL INCREASE OF 20 TRAINS AS DESCRIBED BY CN.
 - The application only counts changes in traffic from a base of what moved at the end of 2006 -- ignoring the additional container traffic that CN plans to transport from the Port of Prince Rupert, which only opened in 2007.
 - Traffic is projected by CN to be 4 million TEU's or "20-foot equivalent units" by 2015!
 - The application also ignores rail traffic of the other four mega-railroads CN plans to admit to the EJ&E line.
 - The application only measures traffic increases for three years out, thus ignoring the growth in overall rail traffic in the Chicago area that is projected to increase by 80% in the next 20 years.

You hold the safety and well-being of not only our family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and on affected communities. Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain ALL of the above points are addressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


 Tom, Ann, Elizabeth and Cara Feeley
 Barrington, IL