

John Wojciechowski
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January 28, 2008

National Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. 35087

Dear National Surface Transportation Board:

As a resident of Bartlett, I am writing in *strong opposition* to the proposed merger of Canadian National-Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railways. As it stands now, we already have a significant amount of freight traffic going through our backyard which makes West Bartlett Road very difficult to traverse. There have been many times where I have waited anywhere between 10 minutes up to over an hour to get to my house which is just on the other side of the railroad tracks.

From a quality of life standpoint, a drastic increase in this type of freight traffic is not what I was expecting when I purchased my house three years ago. I understand that this move will alleviate freight congestion in Chicago, but running this traffic through residential neighborhoods is *not* the answer. Had this merger taken place 10-15 years ago before these neighborhoods were in place, that would be one thing. But to change the rules in the middle of the game is not fair to the thousands of homeowners who live on the western side of these railroad tracks.

From a safety standpoint, this would all but insure that first responders not be able to get to the thousands of homes on the west side of the railroad tracks in the event of an emergency. This could mean the difference between someone living or dying; the difference between a house being saved or burning to the ground. I don't think that anyone on the NSTB board would want one of their loved ones to be in danger simply so that some freight can get to Alberta faster.

Further, the village of Bartlett recently passed and began construction on a fire station just east of these tracks to service the western portion of Bartlett. This merger would all but make this fire station useless.

I urge you to seriously consider the negative impact that this merger would have on the residents of western Bartlett and *all* of the residents that live along this railroad. I would encourage CN to explore alternatives to Chicago that run through more rural or industrial areas that have a far less negative impact on the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

John Wojciechowski
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