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November 22, 2008 / 7

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

My wife and I are residents of Barrington, Illinois, and have been for the past 20 years. We have raised our family less than 1/2 mile from the railroad tracks where the projected increase in train traffic from Canadian National Railway Company. We recently heard that Canadian National Railway Company has proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed us greatly. We became even more concerned when we heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in noise – especially train whistles, the number & length of trains, and the long traffic standstills will affect our quality of life and the quality of the environment in our community.

For one freight train to pass through Barrington, it will cross - *simultaneously* – a minimum of four street intersections resulting in long traffic delays at each crossing creating much frustration with children attending schools, local retail truck deliveries and emergency rescues. The current traffic flow exceeds the current capacity in this town and adding unnecessary stoppages will be devastating to the economy and well being of our community. Those people looking to move in to our community will choose not to if the train traffic is intolerable.

We have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. We believe that the effects we discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. 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 affected communities. Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain that the safety and environmental concerns will not suffer. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Robert & Barbara Hagenberg
820 Fairfax Court
Barrington, IL 60010