

BARTLETT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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July 29, 2008

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

Re: Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Trunk Corporation-
Control-EJ&E West Company (STB Finance Docket 35087)

Dear Ms. Rutson:

As a public entity serving the residents of the Village of Bartlett, IL and surrounding unincorporated areas of Cook and DuPage Counties, I am aware that the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) is proposing to purchase the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). As part of this transaction, CN is proposing to increase the number of freight trains traveling through Bartlett and surrounding areas daily on the EJ&E tracks by over 300%. Although I do appreciate that the Surface Transportation Board is looking into this matter, I have some deep concerns about this transaction.

The Bartlett Fire Protection District serves approximately 50,000 residents over 25 square miles and currently has three EJ&E crossings located on major roadways within the fire protection district boundaries. A new fire station which is currently under construction and set to open in fall of 2008 is located less than ½ mile east of an EJ&E crossing which is at grade level.

The location of this fire station was strategically planned to decrease emergency response times to standards set by the National Fire Protection Association, and to better serve the residents and businesses located on the west side of our fire protection district. An increase in freight train traffic of 300% would greatly increase response times by blocking the only direct roadway to several residential and commercial developments. Had this increase been anticipated or known, this fire station would have been constructed in a different location.

Donald A. Wisniewski
President

James R. McCarthy
Secretary

Broc Montgomery
Treasurer

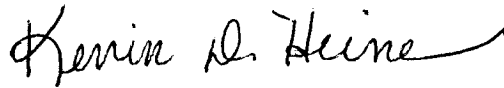
Art Pierscionek
Trustee

John A. Whitmer
Trustee

On the south end of our fire protection district, emergency responses currently have been re-routed to avoid an EJ&E crossing on a state highway which is often blocked during peak hours of the day. This re-routing has increased response times and travel distances to residential areas of our community along with delaying emergency ambulance transports to area hospitals.

At this time, I am asking the Surface Transportation Board to deny CN's proposal to purchase the EJ&E, as this matter must be reviewed at length in order to better understand the effect it will have on our fire protection district as well as many other communities along the EJ&E. I appreciate your taking the time to read my letter. I would ask the Surface Transportation Board to please think about the residents that will be affected by this purchase as well as the safety of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin D. Heine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Kevin D. Heine
Fire Chief
Bartlett Fire Protection District