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January 21, 2008

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Ms. Phyllis Johnson-Bell
Surfaces Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Johnson-Bell,

This letter is regarding the proposed Canadian National Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway. I live and own a business in the Village of Barrington and am extremely concerned about the impact this acquisition will have on the community.

My main concern is for the safety of the children in the community. The additional trains will have an enormous impact on bus schedule to all of the schools. In addition, the safety of the walking children should be of great concern. The location of one of the train crossings is located only a few blocks away from the high school. Teens are known to take many unsafe risks and if they are concerned about being late for school, it makes me extremely nervous to think of kids putting themselves in harms way. Unfortunately, many of them listen to Ipods while walking to and from school which might prohibit them from being aware of a train coming into the area. I live close to the school and both of my children ride their bikes to and from school and cross these tracks. This by far is my biggest concern.

The next big concern is the affect this acquisition will have on the emergency vehicles. It is obvious that safety is a concern because the additional trains will completely tie up the main roads to and from the downtown area and to the hospital. There are at least four train crossings close to the downtown area.

Traffic is also a great concern. Barrington already has terrible traffic issues and in the past has tried to rectify this situation. Because of the four crossing locations, bringing twenty or so additional trains thru the community each day will make the town come to a complete standstill.

There are many other reasons why the community of Barrington will suffer immensely if this acquisition comes to pass. These include additional pollution and noise and the economy of Barrington. No one will want to come to Barrington area stores or places of business because of the additional traffic. Also, the home values will plummet.

Thank you for your consideration of our town Barrington. It is a wonderful community to live in and we are hoping it will remain that way.

Sincerely,

Linda Pochron



Surfaces Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E BIS - FD-35087

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