

August 29, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing to you both in my capacity as the President of a small business in Barrington, Illinois and as a mother of a small child who attends school in downtown Barrington. I would like to lodge my formal opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by the Canadian National Railroad. I believe that this acquisition would have a disastrous impact on the Village of Barrington, as well as the adjoining Village of Deer Park (where I reside).

From a business perspective, the increase in the number of freight trains passing through the village would cause increased travel times to and from my office for all of the employees. Simply running errands such as buying office supplies (on the other side of the tracks), picking up a carry-out lunch order and going to the post office would take much longer. Going to meetings would be increasingly difficult as traffic in the downtown area (where there are two lane roads only) would be total gridlock! Potential clients would want to avoid my office at all costs!

From a personal perspective, commutes to and from the area schools would increase in length. Schools may have to adjust their hours to cope with increased traffic congestion (and with the price of gas at its current level, who wants to waste more of it by sitting in long lines at railroad crossings)! The trains pass very close to some of the local schools. It is dangerous for children to be walking (or in the case of the high school students, driving) across the train tracks. What would happen if the children were late for school?? Would they try to "beat" the train across the tracks? Or try to run around downed crossing gates? It frightens me to think about these possibilities....

Not to mention the problem that emergency vehicles will have. The closest hospital is across the tracks from most of Barrington. Would you want your family member trapped in an ambulance waiting for a 2-mile long freight train to pass before they can proceed on to the hospital? And what about fires, burglaries, and other emergencies that require 911 responders on the scene quickly?

I hope you will give more than passing consideration to these issues and deny the request of the Canadian National Railroad.

Thank you for listening to my concerns (and to those of the entire Barrington community).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Heimbach".

Carolyn Heimbach
President