

7-23-08

STB Rec'd 9/22/08

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

Reference: STB Docket number 35087

My husband and I strongly oppose the purchase of the EJ&E railroad by Canadian National. We have lived in Hawthorn Woods for 14 years, paying now \$15,000 a year in property taxes to live in a beautiful quiet neighborhood with roads that are already way to congested. These freight trains would cause constant noise, an unbelievable traffic problem, danger to residents in the community because the police department is on one side of the tracks and the fire department is on the other side. In case of an emergency situation, the freight trains would surely cause death for anyone needing immediate help.

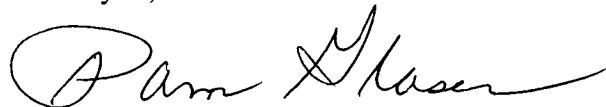
I currently work in Wheeling, and the only way to get there is down Old McHenry Road. This road is already over congested needing to be widened to 4 lanes, and I can't even imagine what it will be like with the constant freight trains coming through. The entire areas surrounding and including Hawthorn Woods are going to be crippled to a standstill. The property value of our home is going to go down drastically, just so a wealthy corporation can make more millions.

Due to the current gas prices, thousands of cars in the suburbs near these tracks are going to be using extra gas that many of the middle class people can't afford right now and is going to contribute to the national gas crisis even more. How can this be allowed and justified?

A better solution would be to use the tracks for short commuter trains, that would help relieve some of the congestion we have right now. This idea would be acceptable to us, and really help our overcrowded roads and to aid in transportation for the continued building of homes to the North of us. There are huge developments going up North of Hawthorn Woods down Fairfield Ave. I just don't know where are these thousands of new drivers are going to go now, let alone having all these additional cars on our roads waiting for freight trains.

Please consider all that I have written and help our community.

Thank you,



Rick & Pam Glaser
Hawthorn Woods, IL