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1/30/08

Barrington Train Issues

This is a comment concerning the acquisition of EJ&E by CN Railways and its subsequent impact.

I have several concerns that I believe need to be addressed before any approval is finalized.

1. Safety – I believe the increased rail traffic through downtown Barrington, IL. will cause an increase in safety risk; especially if the train speed exceeds anything over 20 mph. The primary safety issue will be the ability of emergency vehicles and personnel to have access to the West and North of the downtown area. Unless there is a bridge or tunnel built, at all crossings, this safety risk is unacceptable to the area residents.
2. Social Economic – If this train traffic is to be approved, I believe it will have a significant negative impact on the quality of life of Barrington citizens. This quality of life issue will cause home values to decline and business traffic to diminish; followed by a major exodus from the city. Businesses will have limited access to their customers and business partners. This cannot be allowed.
3. Energy – If train traffic blocks automotive flow, it will cause:
 - a. Significant gasoline usage at a time when we are trying to conserve energy
 - b. Significant pollution and a reduction of air quality as 50 – 80 cars idle while waiting for each train to pass; 20 – 35 times per day.
4. Secondary and cumulative Effect – Rather than being seen as a benefit to the life and vitality of the Barrington community, the rail traffic and its presence will begin to create a negative impression of the Barrington community, one in which it no longer will be seen as a quality and safe community to live in.

Signed

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