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From: janet@barringtonchamber.com
 Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 3:44 PM
 To: barringtonhorizon@aldenrealty.org
 Subject: Urgent - Proposed Acquisition of EJ&E Railways

IT IS CHANGE
 TIME TO ALLOW
 YOU TO
 CNN
 BUY
 E.J. & E.

CALLIS-CALLIS

1418 S. Barrington Rd

BARRINGTON AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YOUR BUSINESS & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

FIGHT RAIL CONGESTION
& THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE EJ&E RAILWAYS

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E RAILWAYS

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Dear BACC Members:

Whether you work or reside in the Village of Barrington, or another area of Barrington, this issue is of critical importance to all businesses. With the future economic vitality of the community in question, The Board of Directors has adopted today, January 8, 2008, a resolution in STRONG opposition of the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railways by the Canadian National Railways (CN) – see attached Draft resolution, and will favorably represent the membership of 750 businesses with over 15,000 employees in the "Battle of Barrington". Draft Resolution, please click here.

What can you do as a business owner?

Join the community at the STB "Scoping" Meeting, January 9th at Makray Memorial Golf Club from either 1pm-4pm, or the 6pm-8pm session

Let's make a united first impression with the Board by impressing them with a packed forum! At the very least, come out to Makray Memorial Golf Club to register and to drop off your comments! Strength is always in numbers.

THE STB SCOPING HEARING PURPOSE:

To thoroughly assess the potential environmental impacts that may result from the proposed acquisition, the STB will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of scoping open houses is to give all interested persons the opportunity to actively participate in the forthcoming environmental review through an open process for determining the range of issues that should be examined and assessed in EIS.

THE STB SCOPING OPEN HOUSE FORMAT:

The Open House will be an informal meeting that enables interested persons to ask questions about the proposal and the Board's environmental review process, and discuss the potential environmental effects of the proposal with SEA staff. In keeping with the open house format of the scoping meetings, there will be no formal presentations made by the agency. Rather, SEA staff members will be available to answer questions and receive comments individually. A court reporter will be available for those persons who wish to submit oral comments. Writing stations will be available to those who wish to submit written comments at the Open House. Interested parties may also arrive with a prepared written statement they may submit for the record. SEA staff will be available to listen and make notes of comments. Additional copies of the draft scope will be available at the Open House. You may arrive and leave at any time during the afternoon or evening Barrington open houses, or drop off your written comments to the Chamber office on Wednesday morning for submission by a Chamber staff member.

IN 1930 to 1940 - THE PLAN

to BUILD BRIDGES WAS THERE

1/8/2008

What impact does this have on the area?

As reviewed by the Barrington Communities Against CN Rail Congestion, a coalition that has formed to ensure that CN and the STB fully consider and address the full impact of the proposed acquisition. The Coalition includes the Villages of Barrington; Barrington Hills; Lake Barrington; North Barrington; South Barrington; Tower Lakes; Deer Park; Cuba Township and Barrington Township.

From Ela Road on the north down to Penny Road on the south, there are 8 streets crossed by the EJ&E line serving the Barrington area communities. Specific roads that will be directly impacted are Ela, Cuba, Lake Zurich, Route 14, Hough Street (Route 59), Lake Cook, Otis and Penny Roads.

Currently 3-5 freight trains per day pass through Barrington on the line. In their application, CN states that another 15 trains per day would be added. CN also states their freight trains will run from 7,000-10,000 feet in length. From end-to-end one train stopped in the right location could block all major intersections in Barrington.

Freight trains can take 4-6 minutes, sometimes longer, to pass through town, depending on speed and other factors. If only 6 minutes for the 20 trains per day CN will admit to, Barrington may experience 2 hours worth of direct train delay everyday - not counting the time it takes for traffic to clear. Based on current traffic counts total weekday delay experienced by all drivers combined could be 2-4 hours. As a result of CN's stated plans and reports to investors on increased traffic from the new Port of Prince Rupert, Canada we fully expect more than 20 total freight trains per day from them.

Emergency Medical Services; Fire, Police and other critical care officials are all speaking out against the dangerous impact the increased freight traffic could have on the community where minutes - even seconds can make the difference between life and death.

High school, middle school and elementary school-aged children all will be impacted. The school board reports school buses cross the EJ&E line nearly 400 times per day. Because of the location of the region's middle schools and high school, every child in our communities will need to cross the EJ&E line at some point in his/her academic career.

As drivers become frustrated at continual delays, we can expect that roadways that are not currently used as main roads will see huge increases in traffic. The safety of children playing in those areas is a major concern to our communities.

What are the major concerns?

The impact on safety, congestion, noise, business and home values, the environment and the overall quality of life in our communities are central to our concerns and why we are confronting this issue head on. Going to school, shopping, accessing small businesses or getting to Good Shepherd Hospital all will be significantly impacted. The EJ&E line crosses all major arterial roads so even those just passing through for the daily commute will be negatively impacted.

If I wanted to draft a letter, whom should I address it to?

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Environmental comments may also be filed electronically on the Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov by clicking "E-filing" link. Please include STB Finance Docket No. 35087 in all correspondence.

For additional information, please check out www.FightRailCongestion.com for a comprehensive site of information regarding this issue. You will also find a Citizen's Guide to the NEPA, which may assist you in preparing for your visit.

If you should have any questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce at 847.381-2525.