

August 26, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

As residents of Hawthorn Woods, we are opposed to the pending acquisition by Canadian National of the EJ&E Railway. The initial impact studies have identified the hazards involved with this acquisition. Our community, among others, would be severely affected by the acquisition. We are opposed because the acquisition would, at a minimum, cause the following problems:

- 1) the frequency of long, heavily loaded, round-the-clock freight trains in our community and numerous other communities throughout the area;
- 2) significant increases in vehicle traffic congestion in an area that is already riddled with traffic congestion problems;
- 3) delays in police, fire and ambulance emergency services that will unnecessarily compromise the health, safety, and welfare of adults and children in our community and many others;
- 4) an increased risk of collisions and derailments;
- 5) transportation of remarkable quantities of hazardous materials;
- 6) noise and diesel engine exhaust pollution that will pose health risks to all in our community and many others;
- 7) a negative impact on real estate values in our community and many others, further depressing the real estate climate that is prevalent throughout Chicagoland and the nation.

In summary, this acquisition, which will so negatively impact so many communities in our area, is completely unnecessary. Our government has the power to say "No" to it. The Surface Transportation Board needs to put the health, safety, and welfare of Americans above the business strategies of Canadian National.



Rick DeSalvo



Lisa DeSalvo

8-26-08