

The Mena Family
25157 North Route 59
Barrington, Illinois 60010

January 9, 2008

To the Transportation Safety Board:

My family has been residents of the Barrington area for almost twelve years. We live in the northern part of the district but travel through all areas on a daily basis. The proposed increase of traffic on the freight lines through the Barrington area will dramatically affect our day-to-day travels.

My husband fights congestion on the expressways by commuting on the Metra trains in the morning. He must cross the freight tracks in question in order to get to the parking lot and board the train. Already hassled with a 3 hour daily commute, if there should be any freight trains causing additional delays, it would increase traffic and make a long commute worse.

What we are more concerned about is that our daughter's middle school is on the opposite side of the tracks as well. Should there be an emergency of any kind, and there is a freight train hindering our ability to respond or get to her, it could be devastating. BOTH middle schools in our district are on the south side of the freight tracks, so this would apply to ALL families with middle school age children north of the tracks.

Business in Barrington would suffer tragically. I make a point of frequenting the small shops that make up the economy in Barrington. Increased traffic to get to the downtown area would push customers away from shopping in the area. Most of us would be forced to take our business to neighboring towns.

Although it doesn't affect me, I feel for families that own property close to the freight tracks. When purchasing their homes, most of them bought because the freight traffic was primarily limited to a few trains, mostly overnight. This proposal would cause dramatic change to their quality of life and their ability to resale their homes, not to mention the change in their property's value.

Finally, researching recent train derailments and the damage to people and property in the surrounding area, I would think you would strongly object to this deal for Canadian National. The freight tracks in the proposal travel too closely to private homes, schools and condensed areas of our community. Any derailment of toxic or flammable substance would be a catastrophe.

Thank you for researching this proposal and listening to the citizens it would effect.

Sincerely,


Chrissie Mena