

DON AND FAITH SEMLA
116 STURTZ STREET
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

February 8, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attention Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket 35087

To the Board:

We are residents of Barrington, Illinois for over 50 years. We are familiar with the traffic problems that have increased here, as everywhere. However, the proposed Canadian National Railway acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway will destroy a downtown and endanger residents who may need emergency treatment or fire service.

We have experienced lengthy rail crossing closings due to accidents on the Union Pacific railroad, backing up traffic and prohibiting fast crossings at other locations west and east of downtown. This also impacts EJ&E crossings, as well. Increased freight traffic, with its long length of cars, in such emergencies could "close" rail intersections on all sides of Barrington. It is a requirement to cross both railroads' crossings in order for us to reach Good Shepherd Hospital or for a fire department response to our home. We are not alone and it is a frightening thought.

This area has fought long and hard to achieve professional fire and paramedic services; it has fought long and hard to achieve the building of a hospital for closer emergency services as well as medical availability.

Safety issues involving schools and response time increases of fire and police are also of concern to us, evening though we are senior citizens.

We feel increase in rail traffic is a "disaster" waiting to happen, and it will impact more than the Village of Barrington residents and businesses. We urge you to give thoughtful consideration to the safety factors for an entire area.

Sincerely,



Don Semla



Faith Semla

Log and Distribution

Date Recd: _____

HDR File No: _____

Scanned (Initial): _____

STABCT #: _____

Cc: Original - Job File