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The Kapcheck Family
7 Woodbury Court
South Barrington, Illinois 60010

January 23, 2008

To the Transportation Safety Board:

My family has been residents of the Barrington area for ten years. We live in the southern 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.

There are many times we are stuck at the tracks downtown already and cannot imagine more train traffic, particularly at rush hours. Emergency vehicles would be at a standstill if a long freight train came through. It would literally lock-down cross-town traffic and prevent them from getting to Good Shepard Hospital from certain parts of the Village. Entrance via Barrington Road (2 times), Lake Cook and Northwest Highway would be blocked simultaneously and create gridlock.

The school buses will have a very difficult time crossing as many times as they do and create a safety issue. How many bus incidents have we seen recently around here? Many high-schoolers walk home every afternoon and cross the tracks, as well.

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 such as the Schaumburg and Woodfield area.

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. A friend of mine is tearing down and building a home nearby and is alarmed at this proposal.

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.

Please keep our community intact as we enjoy the small town feel it has. This was important to us when we selected our home. Thank you for researching this proposal and listening to the citizens it would effect.

Sincerely,


Jackie Kapcheck

Proposal and listening to the
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