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KATHY PINKUS
Platinum Club Member

Phillis Johnson-Ball

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

Ref:STV Finance Docket No. 35087

September 29, 2008

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

As a realtor in the Barrington, Illinois area, I offer a somewhat candid insight into our community. There are several reasons why buyers choose our area, the largest being our quality of life, while still maintaining the convenience of being close to one of the most sophisticated cities in the world, Chicago.

The choice to move to Barrington, in addition to that quality of life, is to be in a community of larger area home sites, many times one to five acres of land for single family homes. Barrington started as a farm community, which is reflected in much of its architecture. It is also the space that attracts many to our area. This area was never planned with such an increase in traffic to accommodate the Canadian National (CN) Railway, as has been the suggested acquisition from the current EJ&E Railroad. On so many fronts the CN just doesn't bring any positives to the area whatsoever. Not from just a noise standpoint, or "not in my backyard" standpoint, but it will literally choke the town from one crossing to the next.

Re/Max of Barrington
306 W Northwest Highway, Barrington, IL 60010
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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Here are just a few reasons of concern in bringing in CN

Taxpayer investment in mitigation nowhere near feasible with the current constraints on property owners

Water hazard for basic drinking water-we don't have access to Lake Michigan, and water contamination would literally shut down the town

Full examination of CN freight operating plans versus what EJ&E has maintained currently has not been realistically addressed

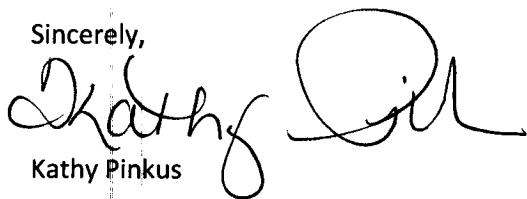
Minimizes commuter rail disruption, school bus, police, fire truck & emergency vehicle routes and timeframe realities

Property values both residential and commercial would be reduced by as much as 40%

This situation calls for your immediate attention and concentration. We are not just saying "not in our town". We have had the train lines through Barrington since the town was formed. We are just asking for seeing the reality for what it is-have the EJ&E line currently passing through Barrington in five different locations throughout the town. With the length of the CN trains, and the commerce which will be carried-coal, hazardous materials without proper containment, let alone the current CN safety record-this is a true disaster waiting to happen!

I implore you to please investigate, look closely at the facts. I urge you to reject this deal and allow us to maintain our current quality of life. It will virtually kill a town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Pinkus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Kathy Pinkus

Remax of Barrington

Former Chairman of the Board, North Shore Barrington Assoc of Realtors