

Why I protest the Canadian National acquisition of the freight line that runs through Barrington and their plan to increase freight traffic by 400%:

"Our school district covers an area of 90 square miles and our school buses cross this rail line nearly 400 times daily." This doesn't include all the private vehicles that are dropping off and picking up children or children walking to schools (the track passes very close to the high school). The safety of our children is at risk with the threat of heavy freight trains barreling down the tracks 20 times a day.

"Each freight train will be between 5,000 and 10,000 feet long. A train of 6,000 feet could block all 4 downtown Barrington street crossings at once. One freight train can take an average of 4 minutes to pass a crossing – the same as having to sit and wait for 7 traffic light changes." At rush hour, I already often have to sit through several light changes as lights near the EJ&E line. I envision that major traffic backups for miles will become the norm.

Many houses and places of business (including mine) are within hearing range of the EJ&E line. Train whistles vibrations and track noise will go from minimal to a near-constant sensory assault.

The green space and wetlands in this region are very important to me and this community. We have invested heavily in preserving their integrity. The EJ&E line runs through environmentally sensitive areas, including the new \$14 million Citizens Park that contains a unique feature to enable the disabled to enjoy a tree house. People and wildlife will be deterred from frequenting the space due to the constant noise which will result from the large increase in trains.

Sincerely,



Amy McClain Carder
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