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Sam Oliver
480 Eton Drive,
North Barrington, IL 60010

I have two broad categories – safety and the environment.

First of all, I'm on the school board so my concerns have to do with the crossings close to the high school that the students have to cross and then my concern is the number of times our school buses cross the tracks during the day and then, of course, I'm concerned by the stopping and waiting of the ambulances and the fire vehicles.

The second broader subject has to do with the environment. One is land use and my concern there is if there is mitigation, what damage will that cause to some of our natural areas because, for instance, our railroad does go through Cuba Marsh. My overall concern is the stress that may happen to our system of preserves in this area. I'm going to list some of these: Cuba Marsh, Ela Marsh, Spring Creek Forest Preserve, and how that will effect the grassland birds at Grigsby Prairie. Next is Flink Creek Savanna and particularly about the stress on the Sandhill cranes. And then there is Bakers Lake and Bakers Lake Savanna and we should note there that that is a designated IL nature preserve which is the highest protection a natural area can have in the state of IL. And a particular concern there is the Heron Rookery. And my overlying concern is the interdependence of all these preserves in the system because they are all used as feeding grounds by the cranes and the herons. For instance, if Cuba Marsh is disturbed, that will have a ripple effect. The many and varied feeding areas. I am also concerned about the added noise of the train whistles and the noise – the vibration – how that will effect the system of preserves.

The final point is air quality and I'm concerned about that additional number of trains plus all the cars that will be idling at these various crossings, one of which is by Baker Lake.

Even though CN isn't going by Baker's Lake right now, I want to emphasis the interrelated ness of the possible disturbance of the wildlife.

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