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Phillis Johnson-Ball  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423  
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Surface Transportation Board,

I am a resident and single family homeowner in Warrenville, Illinois. I am deeply concerned about the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed CN Railway acquisition of EJ & E Railway.

My single family home is located approximately 50 feet away from the EJ & E railroad tracks. Just prior to purchasing my house 3 years ago, I contacted EJ & E. I was told that, on average, approximately six trains pass through here in each 24 hour period. I could live with that, so I bought my dream home.

I now learn that CN plans on adding approximately 20 - 30 trains a day to this rail system. This would be more than one train an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and over a 500% increase in traffic.

There are two large single family sub-divisions in Warrenville that have a large number of houses built directly next to this railroad track. These are \$250,000 to \$300,000 middle class homes. This continuous line of houses runs along the track for approximately two miles. These homes, including mine, are set back an average of 50 to 100 feet from the track. CN's proposed plan will negatively impact hundreds of homes and their families in my community. (Please refer to the attached street map to view the above mentioned areas.)

I have lived within approx. 50 feet of this track for the last 3 years, and have personally experienced many adverse and unexpected environmental impacts to my neighborhood. To go from 6 trains per day, to approx. 25 - 30 trains a day will have a major, negative impact on the roughly 30 surrounding suburban communities.

**\*\* Adverse Environmental Impacts \*\***

Noise -

Each train that goes past my house has two engines on the front of the freight train, and one on the back. Every night, I wake up several times because of the extremely loud train engine noise. The trains can be heard for miles away. The iron tracks hum and vibrate for 20 minutes or more. If CN adds 20 -30 trains per 24 hour period, there will be no peace, only the continuous thunder of heavy machinery, all day and all night.

With just 6 trains a day, the trains already gets backed up into Warrenville. This is caused by the frequently congested, multi-railroad, 4 track intersection located a few miles North of me in West Chicago. Last year, I contacted EJ & E as to why trains frequently stop behind my home. The railway intersection congestion in West Chicago was their explanation. Almost every morning, for 4 to 6 hours, they park trains near or behind my home, with engines still running. The noise is intolerable.

Road Congestion -

Our roads are already burdened with heavy traffic. CN's proposed significant increase in rail traffic will back up auto traffic at all RR crossings. This will cause huge automobile commuter delays, waste of gasoline, and angry drivers. CN says it only takes a minute or so for a train to pass through. I live next to the tracks, and it often takes 2 - 4 minutes for a 100 car train to go by. They often travel through here at under 10 mph. The auto traffic gets backed up waiting on trains, especially at rush hour, which seems to be almost all day long around here.

Property Values -

The property value of any house located next to a high traffic railway will dramatically drop in value.

When property values go down, so will the city property tax revenue.

If CN purchase is allowed, require CN Railway to reimburse all homeowners for their loss in home values.

Health Issues -

During the 3 years I've lived here, I've noticed a red dust filling the air when a train passes by. This red dust is from the rust on the iron track kicked up by the trains. Black dust also fills the air, caused by un-covered train cars filled with coal. The dust is a serious problem, and causes health problems for me and many others with respiratory and/or heart conditions. This contaminated air will be amplified 5 times over if CN has there way.

House Maintenance Issues -

I must keep my house windows closed all year, or the dust created by the trains and track flow into my house, coating my carpet and inside window sills with a thin layer of iron and coal dust. It also covers my new exterior vinyl siding. The siding must be power washed twice a year to remove the accumulated red and black dust.

Because my house is located about 50 feet from the tracks, my house literally vibrates and shakes whenever a train goes by. The in- floor duct work of my ranch house makes vibrating noises whenever a train is within a mile or so of my house. Railroad companies have no right to damage, vibrate or disturb my real estate property. This problem will only multiply with the proposed increased train traffic.

**\*\* Summary \*\***

I have read all the news stories and statements from CN Railway that I could find. They seem to trivialize the huge impact that their proposed rail traffic will have on the approximately 30 suburban bedroom communities that fall along the railway. CN once said the environmental impact should be considered a "Minor" problem. That statement shows their attitude about their concerns for our lives here in Illinois. Warrenville, and most of the other effected towns will receive no benefit whatsoever from CN's presence, but they expect us to suffer the negative ramifications.

CN's primary concern is to increase their corporate profits. Their substantial increase in rail traffic will cause environmental, health, and financial hardships to thousands of local suburban residents.

CN doesn't even reside here. They are a Canadian Company. They just want to pass through over 30 times a day with freight train engines thundering and blaring. Destroying the harmony of our neighborhoods, causing more auto congestion at RR crossings, and ruining the dream of living in a peaceful, quite community that myself and others have worked their entire lives to come home to.

If they want a new North to South route to run their trains through, let them build a new track out West of here. Out in the country, away from major towns and populations. That's the solution they need to plan on. We will not let them destroy our community and quality of life. Not without a fight!

**Vote "NO" to CN Railway's proposed purchase of the EJ&E Railway line.**

Yours Truly,



Steve Hawke

Results 1-1 of about 1 for █████ near  
Manchester Ln, Warrenville, IL 60555

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