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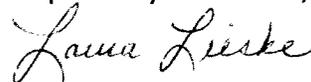
Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson,

In regards to the request by Canadian National Railway to purchase the E.J. & E. railway which runs through several Chicago suburban areas, I would like to voice the following objections.

When the E.J. & E. was founded in 1884, the tracks ran through miles and miles of prairie and farmland. Tracks crossed through sleepy little settlements, and the horse and cart was the primary form of transport on those early roads and paths. The Chicago suburbs had not yet come in to being and the automobile had not been invented. Now those same tracks pass by homes, playgrounds, parks and schools, and cross busy highways and city streets. If those same tracks were proposed today they would never win approval, not even for the current level of train traffic. Canadian National claims that it wants to reduce transport times from one side of Chicago to the other, but who will pay the price for this "improvement"? The citizens of the communities like Barrington that will find their quality of life negatively impacted. Who will benefit? Only the railroad and its shareholders. This is wrong!! Since when does foreign profit take precedence over human lives? Please consider what might happen if this purchase is not approved – nothing. Freight would continue moving at a reasonably fast pace. CN will continue to be financially successful and human safety will not be compromised by blocked grade crossings. Please consider the human factor when reaching a decision on this purchase. I urge you to refuse CN's request to purchase the E.J. & E. railway.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Lieske

Reasons to Oppose the E.J. & E. purchase

- Safety – CN has a poor safety record, with a history of derailments and accidents, some with fatal results. They should not be transporting hazardous materials through heavily populated areas.
- Safety – Frequency and length of trains will block grade crossings, causing delays for emergency services.
- Safety – Proximity to Barrington High School requires hundreds of students to cross these tracks every day, both on foot and by car. In addition, school district buses cross E.J. & E. tracks more than 400 times each day.
- Safety – The possibility exists that a stopped train could block all Barrington crossings at once. Please don't discount the seriousness of this, as even blocking 2 or 3 of them creates major traffic and safety concerns. Increased rail traffic will only increase the frequency of this problem. It poses a grave danger to citizens needing emergency services and an unacceptable blockage of free travel on the roads.
- Traffic – Barrington is already gridlocked during peak travel times due to commuter trains – fifteen additional freight trains blocking those same roads will only compound the problem and force people to travel side streets more heavily. In addition to quality of life issues, this will create more wear on the side streets and cause them to require more frequent maintenance and repair.