

Rodger P. Soeldner

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January 9, 2008

To: The Surface Transportation Board

To whom it may concern:

I have lived in Barrington over twenty years, with the last two years in Jewel Park, adjacent to the EJ & E railroad tracks. In evaluating the purchase of my current home, I felt comfortable with the amount of train traffic (1 to 4 trains per day) and currently do not notice when a train passes except when it blows its horn. A significant increase in the number of trains per day, as is proposed in the Canadian National purchase of the line, would devastate the value of my home. In addition, the added vibration of a greater number of trains per day would have a negative effect on the structure of my home over time. Add to this the increase in noise and dirt debris generated from the passing cars of the train and the added diesel emissions from the train engines and you have an extremely trying set of circumstances under which a person must live.

In addition to the my personal situation above, the traffic delays throughout the Village of Barrington will be dramatically increased and will have a significant negative impact on the ability of police, fire, and other emergency vehicles to service the community which will put lives at risk. This is especially true in Jewel Park where the entrances to the area are cut off by the tracks when a train is going through. With additional train traffic comes more traffic congestion through town. The Village of Barrington does not have a road/highway system to allow the traffic to bypass the railroad tracks. If drivers were to find a way to bypass the tracks, then this would have a detrimental effect on the businesses in downtown Barrington. The Barrington Trustees and Chamber of Commerce have been spending much time and effort to improve and attract businesses in the downtown area. More traffic congestion due to added train traffic would certainly impede this process.

I ask that your agency take a very close look at the many environmental, commercial, and personal detrimental effects of allowing the purchase of the EJ

& E line to proceed and issue a report against this transaction. Thank you for your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,

Rodger P. Soeldner

# EJ&E Crossings

