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I have been a resident of Barrington for 25 of my 34 years. I represent a family that includes 8 siblings. I returned to my home town of Barrington 3 years ago from Long Island, New York. I married my wife who is from Long Island in September and we will be welcoming our first son or daughter to this world in early June. We are looking forward to raising our child and future children, god willing, here in Barrington.

The acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Line by Canadian National Rail (CN Rail) and CN's designs to shift their current Chicago congestion to the EJ&E Rail Line is very upsetting to me. It will have drastic negative impact to the community in which I was raised, and I plan to raise my children. I believe there are several areas in which this proposed acquisition will negatively impact this region.. I wish to express some areas in which I have personal concern:

Traffic Congestion:

As a commuting graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago from Barrington to its' Loop campus, and a 4 year resident on Long Island, as well as a frequent business traveler to all 48 continental states, I can confidently state that I am very familiar with traffic. I can also state that over the last few years I have been surprised by the amount of increasing traffic that affects Barrington on a daily basis. This is not only during rush hours during the work week, but increasingly on the weekends as well. The proposed 400% increase in freight rail traffic through Barrington will have a dramatic negative impact on Barrington's traffic patterns. The Union Pacific Northwest passenger line that services Barrington and it's surrounding communities currently has 29 inbound trains to Chicago and 31 outbound on a daily basis during the work week along with the existing freight traffic that runs on this line daily. Couple this

with the proposed 400% increased freight traffic on the EJ&E rail line and this town comes to a standstill.

My Family's Safety

The proposed 400% increase in freight traffic will not only affect the wait time people experience, but will have an impact on emergency response vehicles and could cost lives. From my residence I have to cross both the Union Pacific and the EJ&E rail lines at grade crossings to reach Good Shepherd Hospital, the closest to my residence.

Economic Impact:

As a long time resident, and hopefully many more years to come resident, of Barrington, I foresee the potential for negative impact to the economic growth of the town. Given the proposed 400% increase in freight traffic and the resultant vehicular traffic, I believe it is very possible that some Barrington shops may experience a drop in visiting customers as those customers search for alternatives without such traffic conditions. In addition to this, there is also the resultant negative impact to home values in the area which is unacceptable to me and my family.

Environmental Impact:

I have watched Barrington grow from the small hometown I was introduced to in 1976 and my earliest memories, to the bustling town it is today. In my youth I was fortunate enough to have the green areas Barrington provides to entertain all my outdoor activities. The increased freight traffic, along with the increased possibility of accidents, can have severe immediate consequences that affect our many natural lands the EJ&E rail line passes through. Based on the troubling information available in *Phase I of Transport Canada Action Plan to Address CN Safety Issues* this possibility is very much a reality. This report was published on January 5, 2006 and details CN's greater than 75% increase in derailments from the year 2000 to year 2005 with data available only to Oct of 2005.

Since this report was published, the following two troubling environmental accidents have occurred:

- August 2006, 20 coal cars of a CPN train using a CN bridge derailed dumping 12 cars full of coal into the Thompson River in British Columbia.

- August 2007, two CN trains collided, burst into flames and several cars spilled fuel which seeped into the Fraser River.

There is a Phase II to this report which has not yet been published or released to the public arena which would detail any further accidents, safety issues and CN's response to the initial findings.

I am fearful of the potential environmental and public safety impact a possible CN accident in the Barrington area would cause.

In closing, I strongly oppose any increase to the current freight rail traffic through the Barrington area. I do not believe transferring the issues CN currently experiences in Chicago to my hometown of Barrington is a positive transaction for any town in which the EJ&E rail line passes through. I ask that the Surface Transportation Board taking all factors into account sees the obvious negative impact this transaction will have to the many towns in which the EJ&E rail line passes, including my hometown.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.