

January 9, 2008

Transportation Safety Board:

I am extremely concerned about the Canadian National Railroad's plan to increase rail traffic on the EJ&E line by 400%.

I have lived in Barrington for six years, and I specifically moved my family into the area because of the country-like atmosphere, the open landscapes and abundant wildlife. I highly value the tranquil character of my neighborhood and the entire Barrington community.

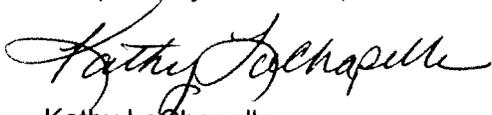
I am extremely concerned about the impact to the natural environment. According to the Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), there are currently 173 species of plants and animals designated as endangered or threatened by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. As far as I know, there has been no study performed by an independent agency to determine the impact of the increased rail volume on any of these species of plants, birds and other wildlife. The rail line is a major crossing point for deer and other mammals. With the additional trains passing along this corridor, animal mortality rates due to train collisions will undoubtedly increase by double digits.

I am also concerned about the increased traffic congestion through the town of Barrington. Traffic congestion around Hough, 59, and Northwest Highway is already unbearable during rush hour. I drive through these areas every day while taking my daughter to school and commuting to my office. My daily commute is already a full hour each way. Additional time commuting will place a huge burden on my time and expenses.

I understand that change is a part of life and transportation needs are important. However, the profit goals of a single corporation cannot be allowed to overrule issues of public safety, general health, quality of life, and the environment in such a highly populated, already congested, suburban area.

I urge the TSB to support the Barrington Communities Against CN Rail Congestion (<http://www.fightrailcongestion.com>) and reject the plans of Canadian National Railroad.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy LaChapelle
4 Hickory Lane
Barrington Hills, IL 60010
Home: 847-842-0884
Cell: 847-414-2561
Email: kathy.lachapelle@northridgegroup.com