

00002-111607-ESSLER, PORT 60010. O. N

EF-3346

November 16, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I understand that Canadian National Railway is planning to purchase the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. The purchase would substantially increase the train traffic around the Village of Barrington, IL—some say there will be at least 15 more trains per day. Such an increase concerns me greatly, and I write to urge you to examine the impacts of this transaction in depth, particularly the effect it will have on the safety of my children, the impact on my property value and just simply living life in a small community which is landlocked by railway systems.

Currently, I reside at 240 Elm Road in Barrington, Illinois. My family and I are only yards away from four of the major EJ&E tracks. We cross the railroad more than 10 times a day. Every time we go to and from school we have to cross, anytime we need groceries, see a doctor, visit the library, or enjoy our parks, we are crossing a train track.

We may be a small town community to such a large conglomerate, but the impact to the people of this town is extremely negative on all fronts. There is no way, no matter where you live in this town, to get around, literally, an increase in trains, as we are defined and confined by the railway system. My home in particular has already felt the effects of large and heavy trains moving through the area – steel posts have been added to the foundation of my nearly 100 year old home, in order to offset the rigorous shifting that is felt every time a train passes through. To add more lines would undoubtedly have a devastating effect on the integrity of my house and the way we live.

As you can see, Canadian National's purchase presents real problems for the members of this community. Without your protection, we have no way of protecting ourselves from the noise, traffic, safety at crossings, the environmental effects, and most importantly, the way we live in our community. For over five generations my family has lived in this community and I fear that I will be the last if this situation is not addressed. We simply cannot live in a freight yard, where the day's activities and worries revolve around the comings and goings of these trains. Please consider the impact this transaction will have on our community and our environment before you approve the proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hayley Essler
ESSLER

DC-965773 v2

NO ADDRESS
240 ELM ROAD
BARRINGTON IL 60010