

Barrington, IL and the surrounding communities are highly populated areas. Thousands of children take busses to school that need to cross those tracks several times a day. We have hundreds of special needs students who take buses that cross the tracks. Many of these students cannot tolerate long bus rides, which would only be lengthened with increased rail traffic. I drive all my children to and from their schools and activities. I alone cross the tracks at least 10 times each day. There is no doubt lives can be lost from the wait that will be needed for emergency vehicles to cross the tracks when 20 trains per day can cause approximately 2-4 hours in traffic delays.

Most amazing to me is the numerous amounts of articles I could find on Canadian National in regard to derailments and safety issues. I would like to take a moment to share some comments from these articles.

Sept. 28, 2005- Canadian Press - Edmonton- The day after **CN Rail's** cleanup of its **eighth derailment in two months**, new figures from the Transportation Safety board show **accident rates have been climbing** for all Canadian railways, **especially Canadian National**.

Monday, Feb. 20, 2006- CBC News – **Traffic is not yet back to normal after the weekend derailment in Quebec of two trains, one loaded with diesel fuel that skidded and ended up in a woman's backyard.**

Wed. March 1, 2006 – The Edmonton Journal - **CN's problems date back to 2002. Transport Canada says CN has been operating in an unsafe manner since last September and has yet to reassure the department it has adequately addressed safety concerns. CN assured Transport Canada the safety concerns raised in 2002 would be addressed. But routine monitoring and nationwide audits showed the problems persisted.**

Wed. August 10, 2006- (Reuters) **Canadian National may face charges for not revealing that a derailment involved a hazardous chemical. Residents have been ordered to avoid contact with lake and local wells.** CN knew one of the derailed cars at Wabamun Lake was carrying a hazardous substance days before Alberta Environment began investigating the possibility.

Sept. 20, 2006 – (Globeandmail.com) -VANCOUVER- **The NDP released documents indicating the Canadian National Railway train that killed two workers was more than a month overdue for its maintenance check.**

Sept. 27, 2006 – (Globeandmail.com) - VANCOUVER- **An engine that had such poor brakes it had to be taken out of service immediately was one of the safety concerns**

raised when Transport Canada inspectors monitored Canadian National Railway's operation in Northern British Columbia this summer.

Monday, Oct. 23, 2006 (AP) – **Town evacuated as CN tanker spews chemicals forced evacuation of 200 homes in Kentucky.**

May 3, 2007 – (Globeandmail.com) - VANCOUVER – **Nearly one-third of the cars on a 90-car CN Rail train derailed near Blue River, B.C., the day after the release of an audit that found numerous shortcomings in the railway's safety practices.**

After several years of written documentation, Canadian National has still apparently not taken responsibility for safety issues.

It can happen in Canada and it can happen here. Please don't take more risks on human life.

I am asking that you do the right thing for the health and safety of our population. Please do not allow increased rail traffic, particularly from Canadian National Railway.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Garrels
1312 Lake Shore Dr. North
Barrington, IL 60010
(847) 381-3731