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

RE: Canadian National Acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Tracks at Shoe Factory Road

As homeowners and a family living in Hoffman Estates, we are concerned about the negative impact the purchase of the EJ&E tracks by Canadian National (CN) will have on our property value and quality of life in our neighborhood. We are writing to you to express our opposition to the CN acquisition of EJ&E tracks, as well as for your support to help mitigate the impact on our neighborhood if the acquisition does go through.

We live in the Bridlewood Farms neighborhood that is adjacent to the EJ&E tracks at Shoe Factory Road. Shoe Factory Road is the only access road into and out of our neighborhood. If CN succeeds in purchasing the EJ&E tracks, our neighborhood will experience an increase in trains from 5 to 20 per day. Increasing trains by 400% in a quiet, suburban neighborhood with no alternate route available obstructs families and children from necessary services and daily activities.

The current train crossings already cause delays of up to 15 minutes for cars traveling Shoe Factory Road. The school bus routes also cross the tracks, and our children have been late for school by as much as 20 minutes due to train crossings. The only access to our neighborhood is by Shoe Factory Road. With trains crossing nearly hourly, quadrupling train traffic will substantially decrease our property values and negatively affect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

We expect the following impact on our neighborhood if CN purchases the EJ&E tracks:

- Our property values will decrease due to significant train noise and traffic
- Traffic on Shoe Factory Road will increase and back up during train crossings
- Families will have increased risk to hazard materials exposure from potential train accidents
- Families will hear train horns and noise throughout the day and night
- Train crossings will delay morning commutes
- Train crossings that cause our children to be late for school will increase
- Traffic will increase on alternate roads that are already high-traffic: Interstate 90, Higgins Road, Golf/Summit Road
- Critical response time for emergency vehicles coming from the east will increase endangering our families' lives
- Accidents on the blind hill on Shoe Factory Road approaching the train crossing will increase

Your agency should be aware of the significant burden this purchase will place on our neighborhood. How does Canadian National plan to mitigate the effects of such a substantial increase in train traffic via the only access road for our neighborhood?

- Will they build an overpass or underpass in place of the Shoe Factory Road crossing?
- Will they place sound barriers to lessen the noise impact to homes just yards away?
- Will they install no-horn crossing gates? Or "Quiet Zones" as nearby communities have done?
- What measures will they implement to insure the safety of families and children while transporting hazardous materials?
- How will they address the effect to wildlife in the adjacent Shoe Factory Forest Preserve?

Thank you for your assistance. If you need any additional information regarding our neighborhood's concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Cory and Christine Echito
<http://stopcntrains.blogspot.com>