

November 28, 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 am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for 5 years, stands less than 100 feet from the EJ&E railroad tracks that run through Barrington. I recently heard that Canadian National Railway Company had proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in traffic, safety, and noise problems will affect the value of my home, my quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community.

Barrington is an old, small town community that was established at the turn of 20th century around the two major rail lines that intersected at the center of the community. Because of its railroad centric beginning, the road system in our entire region accommodated the railroads – meaning the number of “through-streets” is very limited. In our case, we have only one artery that goes north-south, one that goes east-west, and one that goes northwest, bisecting the other two. Two of these are state highways and the other, a county road. The EJ&E railroad cuts across ALL THREE roads. There are no alternative routes for cars and trucks to seek out for virtually miles in any direction. All three roads are heavily used throughout the day. Needless to say, surface traffic would become even more of a nightmare, and the economics of the region would be negatively impacted, due to the heavy amount of truck traffic on all three arterials.

In addition to the traffic nightmare caused by additional trains, the safety of my family will be significantly compromised in the event of a fire or medical emergency as we are dependent on a lone fire station that is located on the opposite side of the tracks from where we live. An increase in train traffic in the magnitude being considered would put us in real danger.

Finally, the issue of noise caused by trains sounding their horns at the approach of an intersection needs to be addressed. Our home is situated between two intersections and the railroad crosses numerous streets on either side. The train horns currently disrupt every single night of sleep; the addition of even a few more trains will make our lives a living nightmare. At minimum, before they are allowed to add even one more train to this line, CN should be required to improve all train crossings along our route in order to qualify our communities for an exemption to the federal horn requirement.

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I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. I think that the effects I discussed above warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities. Please do not approve this proposal until you are certain traffic, safety and our community ambiance will not suffer. Thank you.

Sincerely,



David and Rachel Cook

535 Elm Road
Barrington, Illinois