

BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP
COOK COUNTY

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LINDA POST November 14, 2007
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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

Dear Ms. Rutson:

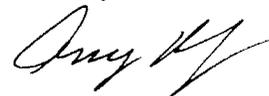
I am currently the Barrington Township Assessor in the Barrington, Illinois area. In my capacity as assessor over the past 14 months, I am in charge of all issues relating to real estate taxes in Barrington Township. The assessors serves a vital purpose in the community by being a local source for all real estate tax purposes. We depend heavily on maintaining the quality of our community and maintaining our property values.

It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on reduction of our property values, and only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

This increased noise and traffic will greatly adversely affect our townships property values.

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The SEA should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impact on noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings,. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,



Amy Nykaza, CIAO