



23570 Cuba Road

Deer Park, IL 60010-2490

November, 13, 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 currently President of the Vehe Farm Foundation in the Deer Park, Illinois, a community that is in the greater Barrington, Illinois area. On behalf of the Village of Deer Park, the Vehe Farm Foundation acts as steward to the Village's 14-acre Vehe Farm, which provides residents in Deer Park and the Barrington/Lake Zurich area with outdoor recreation and indoor community meeting and rental space.

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 Deer Park, Lake Zurich, and 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 noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings, and the environment, 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.

Our success as an enterprise depends heavily on lack of noise, low traffic, and safety at grade crossings. Our facility is used for family outings, weddings, corporate meetings, non-profit meetings, government meetings, and private rentals. Visitors need to be able to get to our facility safely and without undo traffic delays. Also, the noise from the trains will severely affect the desirability of our location for the above uses.

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, and the environment. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Pat Winkelman
Pat Winkelman, President, Vehe Farm Foundation



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Thank you!



*Ms. Victoria J. Sutton
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