

November 16, 2007

Linda R. Hovde  
968 Williamsburg Park  
Barrington, IL 60010

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

Dear Ms. Rutson,

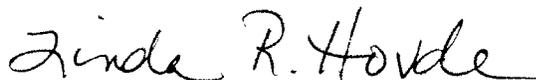
I am very upset by the possibility of numerous, heavy freight trains bisecting our village over and over each day. My house is within earshot of the EJ&E tracks so I do hear the horns and vibrations of the passing trains.

More importantly, my last child, an eighth grader, walks and rides her bike over several of the EJ&E tracks when she goes to town, dance classes, gymnastics or the public pool. Over and above the traffic congestion additional trains will cause is my concern with pedestrian traffic. I am a Barrington Park District Commissioner and we have just completed development of a new 55 acre park adjacent to the EJ& E tracks called "Citizen's Park". The most important facet of this development was the taxpayer's mandate to add hiking and biking trails for their use. The park opened in June 2007 with about 2 miles of trails and just recently, two weeks ago, the Lake County Forest Preserve opened a ¾ mile connection trail between Citizen's Park and their 700 acre Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. This has been very popular in it's first few weeks with hundreds of walkers and bikers using it.

The Langendorf Park Pool Complex is north of the EJ&E tracks from the Village center and lots of people walk to the pool in the summer, crossing the rail line. Another heavy pedestrian crossing area is on Lake-Cook Rd. just east of the high school. When the teens are dismissed at 2:40PM, hundreds of kids walk to their cars or home and cross those tracks. I am very worried about these three pedestrian crossings.

Unfortunately, just two evenings ago, a Barrington boy, just a junior in High School, was killed by a train at one of the pedestrian crossings in Barrington. Each year, someone is injured or killed by the train locally. Adding so many more train crossings will surely impact our community's safety. Please ensure that we can know we are safe when you determine the parameters of this CN proposal.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Hovde  
Barrington Park District Commissioner