

Written Statement to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board
Re: the Canadian National Railroad Acquisition of the EJ&E Rail Line
and its Proposal to Increase Rail Freight Traffic to Twenty (20) Trains Daily
Through the Village of Barrington, Illinois

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As residents of Barrington, Illinois, we wish to express our strong opposition to Canadian National Railroad's (CN's) acquisition of the EJ&E Line under the terms of its current expressed plan to increase the number of daily freight trains running on that line from the current 3 to 5 to 20. Such a dramatic increase in the number of trains running through Barrington and the surrounding communities will have a devastating effect on our community life, our property values, and most important, our public safety.

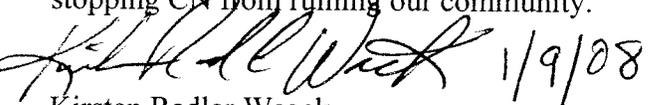
The EJ&E line cuts directly through the heart of the Village of Barrington, where we live. The increase in noise and the escalation of the nuisance of waiting for a train to pass are sure to intensify greatly if CN is permitted to run 20 trains per day, and are thus a genuine concern for us. However, it is the damage that such a large number of trains will cause to the safety of the citizens of this area and to the viability of the small businesses in the downtown Village area is clearly unacceptable and untenable. CN simply cannot be allowed such an enormous increase in the number of long freight trains that, as they pass through the Village, for all practical purposes create a metal wall cutting Barrington in half.

We live just north of the EJ & E tracks, which is the "right" side of the tracks to get to the nearest hospital (Advocate Good Shepherd) should one of us be able and/or available to drive there in an emergency. However, the Public Safety Building, housing the Village police and fire departments, while only 1 mile from our house, is on the other side of the EJ&E tracks. In an emergency, should a freight train be passing through, we are cut off from the police and fire until a train passes. We are, of course, only two of what we assume are thousands in the same position, be they on the hospital side of the tracks or the Public Safety Building side. Moreover, while such a situation can occur under the current conditions of 3 to 5 daily trains, and while it is unreasonable to expect a guarantee or promise that such a situation will never occur, running 20 daily trains will **ensure** that there will be emergency situations that are worsened by the presence of a long freight train.

We do not yet have children, but understand that area school buses cross the EJ&E tracks a total of over 350 times per day. This is also a serious concern to us even though we do not yet have children. The additional travel time to and from school and school events that will be created by 20 daily trains is mind-numbing.

Twenty daily trains will also devastate the downtown Village business community. The downtown area of the Village of Barrington is a wonderful, vibrant business community comprised of both small businesses and some larger chains. However, should it become impossible, or merely "too difficult" to get to these businesses, people will be forced to go elsewhere. This will kill a sparkling little slice of small town Americana.

The foregoing are merely a few of our most significant concerns. There are many others that the STB should consider (negative impact on property values and area wildlife, pollution and other environmental factors, etc.) in reviewing CN's proposal. We hope this aids in making clear to the STB that CN's plans to run 20 daily trains through the Village of Barrington and the surrounding communities are entirely unreasonable and are completely unacceptable to the citizens of this area. We intend to participate fully in the process of stopping CN from ruining our community.

 1/9/08
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