



the MOTIVATION shop
Incentive Solutions for Business

#EJ-3228
vjr

November 12, 2007

Ms. Karen Darch
Village President
Village of Barrington
200 South Hough Street
Barrington, IL 60010

Madam President:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you on the recent sale of the EJ&E line and the imminent threat to Barrington brought about by a certain increase in traffic on this line throughout the Barrington area.

First let me say that I'm encouraged by the amount of due diligence that Village Trustees and Staff members have invested already on this topic-most notably with the Village's effort to eliminate train horn noise and extending a "quiet-zone" recently enacted in other communities along the EJ&E to our north. I'm convinced that this Board is energetically trying to keep this topic front-and-center because of the enormous impact this has on so many Village residents in scores of our neighborhoods.

Our family has lived on Raymond Avenue in the Village for 14 years. As you know, several residences (including mine) at the South end of Raymond Avenue, are situated immediately adjacent to the EJ&E tracks. Like everyone else, we've had to endure the randomness of the freight trains-and their horns, that follow no apparent schedule four or five times each day.

Since I also work from home I truly have a round-the-clock sense of the traffic on this line and I've followed news of the EJ&E acquisition very closely. When the news first appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, I immediately contacted President Darch and I was told that Village representatives are already working with surrounding communities and myriad government agencies, attorneys and transportation experts to advocate for Barrington. I urge every resident to do the same; visit the Village web site to stay informed about this and to remain engaged since there is truly no other single issue that has the potential to so negatively impact our town.

To be more specific, the sale of the EJ&E could result in a four-fold increase in the number of trains using the line from the current 5-6 trains per day to 20 or more-probably at off hours so as to avoid crossing conflicts with Metra commuter trains. There are some very revealing statements made by the buyers at Canadian National about their motives for purchasing this line which you can read excerpts of on-line. I can envision the impact from train horns and the traffic tie-ups causing an enormous impact on our current situation.

I would ask that the Village's effort to extend the quiet zone be urgently stepped-up and I would be pleased to participate in any way possible. As I understand it, the new owners must file an

application to increase usage of the line as part of their petition for purchase. Our efforts to mitigate impact on Barrington must include an insistence that Canadian National submit an impact study that can accurately reflect the impact of any plan to increase usage of this line on our quality of life.

While I recognize that aspects of this issue even rises to the level the Federal Department of Transportation, it would be difficult to overstate the negative impact this is bringing to Barrington-and noise is only the beginning. Now that this sale has gone through, we must collaborate with every one of our elected representatives at every level to insure that we maintain a strong voice and insist on our place at the table as this plan moves ahead.

Thank You,



Mr. Steve Morrissey
Account Director / Principal
The Motivation Shop
www.themotivationshop.com
123 Raymond Avenue
Barrington, IL 60010
847-304-5700

CC: Surface Transportation Board
HD Resources
Walnut Grove Homeowners Association

