

January 9, 2008

We are writing to express extreme concern over the Canadian National Railroad plan to increase rail traffic through northwest Cook County on the EJ&E line by 400%.

This rail line runs directly behind our home at Rolling Knolls Estates in unincorporated Cook County, on an easement between my property and the Shoe Factory Woods branch of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

The Barrington communities will be significantly affected in a negative way, but we wish to point out that they are not alone. There are hundreds of additional homes within 300 feet of the EJ&E line, just south of Barrington, in Hoffman Estates and Elgin that will also feel the negative impact of CN's plan should it be allowed to proceed.

The proposed increase in rail traffic will have a severe negative impact on our property value and the quality of life in our neighborhood due to increased noise levels throughout the day and night. There are currently about 5 trains per day. The current noise level when trains pass or stop is occasionally offensive, but most of the time within a range of reasonableness.

With the outrageous proposed increase rail traffic, up to 23 or more trains per day, the disruption of noise will most assuredly reach a level, both night and day, that can only be described as invasive, assaulting and utterly intolerable. We vigorously oppose this CN plan.

In addition, we are extremely concerned about the impact of this increased rail traffic on the natural environment of the adjacent Forest Preserve. According to the Preserve District of Cook County, there are currently 173 species of plants and animals designated as endangered or threatened by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. As far as we know, there has been no study performed by an independent agency to determine the impact of the increased rail volume on any of these species of plants, birds and other wildlife. The rail line is a major crossing point for deer and other mammals. With the additional trains passing along this corridor, animal mortality rates due to train collisions will undoubtedly increase.

We understand that change is a part of life and transportation needs are important. However, the profit goals of a single corporation cannot be allowed overrule issues of public safety, general health, quality of life, and the environment in such a highly populated, already congested suburban area.

We urge the STB to support the Barrington Communities Against CN Rail Congestion (<http://www.fightrailcongestion.com>) and reject the plans of Canadian National Railroad.

Respectfully submitted,

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