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November 14, 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 have been a resident of Barrington, Illinois since 1962, and returned there in 1981 to raise my own family and graduate each of my four children from the high school I attended so many years ago. Our home for the last 26+ years, is approximately one block from the EJ&E's single rail tracks that run through Barrington and its surrounds, bisecting the Village and resulting in enormous traffic congestion in the morning and during the evening's rush hours.

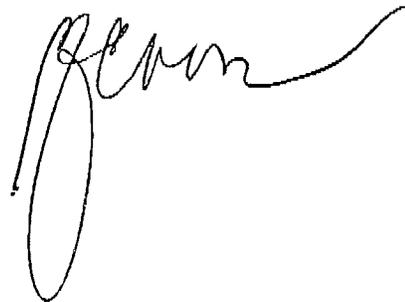
Crain's Business recently reported that Canadian National Railway Company has proposed a project that would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in noise, traffic congestion and safety problems at these rail crossing will most certainly adversely impact the quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community, including the wildlife and conservancy areas already established in the area.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. Perhaps you are not aware that the Union Pacific's Metra line also criss-crosses through the small Village of Barrington, and that combining the already existing commuter rail traffic with the projected 15+ trains on the EJ&E, will make it virtually impossible to traverse this community efficiently and safely. *Each one of the rail crossings in Barrington is at grade*, and pedestrian and automobile traffic will necessarily be affected by your decision. The public schools that service the Community Unit School District, including the sole high school which sits on the west side of the EJ&E, are attended by a substantial school bus population, and these children will spend countless more hours just attempting to go to and from school each day, as well as the sports activities and dance classes that are such an essential part of our children's everyday lives.

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You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but also an entire region in your hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Brown", written in a cursive style. The signature starts with a large, looped initial "R" and ends with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.