

**Dr. and Mrs. Conrad J. Urban**

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To: S. Victoria J Rutson, Chief  
Section of Environmental Analysts  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

We have been apprised that the Canadian National Railway wants to buy the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway, which runs through Frankfort, Illinois and the Prestwick area. The EJ&E runs along the back of our property on a hill which separates us from a church camp, usually filled with children of all ages, some of which have been known to wander up on the tracks from time to time. Then there are the herds of deer and other animals which constantly are in harms way of the current rail traffic. Many native animals will be adversely affected.

We understand that the proposed plan is to run 28 trains a day and each train could be 2 miles long. This means 28 trains in a 24 hour period, every day. Please look at a map of Frankfort, IL and the Prestwick area. Aberdeen Road, the street which parallels the EJ&E tracks, runs several miles west from Harlem Avenue. There is no other outlet from our area except for the exit which is one house-length from the rail road crossing on Harlem. Already this poses a traffic nightmare when there is a train, backing up traffic all the way to Lincoln Highway, (US Route 30), by trains which are much shorter than 2 miles long!

The EJ&E tracks also cross a creek on our property. Within the past few years, the train traffic that we have now dislodged the cement in the underpass, causing problems with the waterway and the possibility of the collapse of the water tunnel, tracks, and the flooding of our property and that of the camp on the other side. It had to be replaced. Please check to see if the current tunnel could withstand so much increased weight and vibrations from the increased usage that they propose. We are sure you will consult with Army Corps of Engineers regarding the collapse of the overpasses and culverts. We have already had our flood zones changed by them without this increased threat, decreasing the value of many homes and making them less marketable. We have already voiced concerns over upcoming proposed roadwork to widen Harlem at this intersection and rail road crossing. **There is no money in the budget for an underpass.** We are very afraid that this would pose even more problems getting emergency vehicles into our area, and, in our case, getting Dr. Urban out of our area in an emergency at the hospital. Dr. Urban is only one of several physicians who live on Aberdeen and are on emergency call.

Not only would this affect motorist's safety and tie up traffic at railroad crossings, but it would also produce more noise in our residential areas. CN officials say rerouting its trains to the outskirts of Chicago will help alleviate the environmental impact on the city of Chicago. Those trains have been in Chicago over 100 years. The people in Chicago know how to go the back streets to avoid trains. We do not have back streets - we have cul de sacs and dead ends. It is not fair to subject the citizens of this community to more sound and air pollution just to lessen it for citizens of Chicago. In fact, we have wanted the tracks removed completely. If the Canadian National Railway wants to re-direct their trains, they should go through unpopulated areas farther south. We just cannot absorb additional train traffic now, and our community is one of the fastest growing areas in the Chicagoland area.

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