

Robert Hoffman

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November 28, 2007

Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-001

Dear Ms. Rutson,

The Village of Barrington as well as many other rapidly growing collar suburbs of Chicago face a disastrous situation that could destroy the homeowner's quality of life as well as the viability of its business districts.

The Canadian National Railroad (CN) is seeking the United States Surface Transportation Board approval to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company (EJ&E). The Board is mandated to approve the purchase unless there is reasonable belief that the purchase would reduce freight transportation competition.

The EJ&E has a line that cuts through the heart of Barrington. If the CN is successful in their bid to buy EJ&E, the number of freight trains that would run each day would increase from approximately 5 to 20 or more. In addition, CN plans to permit four other major railroads access to the EJ&E line that would further increase daily use by freight trains wreaking havoc on the Barrington Community. Although it is impossible at this time to estimate the number of freight trains from the other railroads, the 20 CN freight trains take an average of 6 minutes to pass through a single railroad crossing totaling 2 hours every day. The gridlock created by simply adding 15 more freight trains from CN at each of the four railroad crossing in the Village of Barrington would essentially curtail all vehicular traffic in the Village, impede school bus emergency vehicle movement, and eventually destroy the viability and vitality of the community.

In addition to affecting the Village of Barrington, the commuters driving on Northwest Highway to and from McHenry county would be severely affected because the EJ&E train line bisects Northwest Highway just north of the village of Barrington. McHenry County already has the seventh highest commute time in the nation and the main way for the majority of the commuters to get to I-90 from McHenry County is via Northwest Highway.

I live on the northside of the Village of Barrington and my son goes to preschool on the southside. Walking this one mile distance from our home to his school can be easily done in fifteen minutes. However, the current congestion in Barrington is already so bad that at certain times of the day it often takes 20

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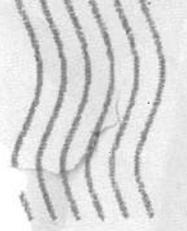
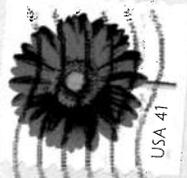
freight train traffic through Barrington, I believe that the viability of our town would be destroyed. I invite you to come and visit Barrington and see for yourself the current congestion problem and imagine what it would be like if an additional 2 hours of train traffic were added to our town.

I believe that the only solution to this huge problem is to either block the purchase of the EJ&E railway by Canadian National Railroad, or to invest millions of dollars in a tunnel or overpass system so that the freight trains do not make an already incredibly congested area utter gridlock. Don't let traffic and pedestrian safety become a bigger concern than it already has become. Help SAVE Barrington, McHenry County and the rest of the surrounding suburbs!

Thank you,

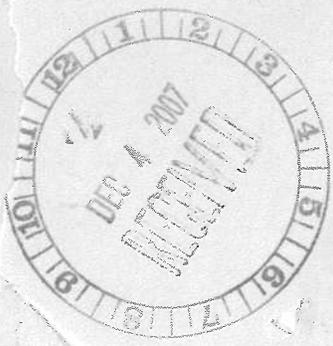
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