

00132. 112507. HOLZKNECHT, PCTE. 600 P.O. N

Arthur J. Holzknacht
148 Raymond Ave.
Barrington, IL 60010

Email: arth@ameritech.net
Tel: 847.382.8987

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Ms. Victoria J. Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Ruston;

I am writing in reference to the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E freight railroad by Canadian National Railroad (CN). I wish to express my disapproval of this acquisition because of the serious adverse effects it will have on the Barrington area.

The EJ&E rail line runs through the center of the village of Barrington. This purchase and the subsequent dramatic increase in freight rail traffic through the area will have major detrimental impacts on our community in the following ways:

- Unsustainable increases in traffic congestion, in a region already struggling with rush hour gridlock and population growth. There are eight street-grade level EJ&E crossings on roads that serve the Barrington communities.
- The safety of our children will be put at risk, many of whom must cross grade level crossings to get to school, either on foot or by bus. Our children will also have to deal with increased traffic on secondary roads as frustrated drivers try to get around the gridlock.
- Emergency and public safety responsiveness will be compromised due to blocked crossings and traffic gridlock.
- Environmental pollution will increase dramatically from the thousands of cars that will be idling while waiting for trains to clear the crossings.
- Noise pollution from trains and their horns will be a major environmental disturbance, with a substantial detrimental impact to quality of life and psychological well being.
- Regional economic activity will be adversely impacted as businesses will avoid the area due to the congestion and noise. Local businesses will suffer. The economic viability of the entire downtown Barrington area is seriously threatened.
- Property values will suffer as prospective home buyers avoid the area
- Our overall quality of life will be irreparably damaged.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to oppose this acquisition unless a thorough and far reaching assessment of the impact on the region has been taken into account and

comprehensive restrictive and enforceable covenants are put into place to mitigate any damage. The interests of the established residents and businesses must be taken into full consideration. We were here first.

Barrington Village is a major point of interconnectivity for road traffic for the surrounding towns. There are major north-south and east-west arterial roads running through the center of the village. These roads all carry heavy commuter traffic. All of these roads have grade level crossings. The EJ&E line also intersects the Metra Northwest line in the heart of the Village. The impact of so many more freight trains in the area will be devastating.

Our schools are in the Village. Our children must cross the tracks to get to school. Please consider the health and safety of our children.

I also believe that CN has grossly understated the increase in freight traffic that they will pass through Barrington. CN's estimated 15 additional trains per day (already too many for the area to absorb) does not include:

- Container traffic from the recently opened Port of Prince Rupert terminal that will be routed through the area;
- Rail traffic from the other 4 large railroads that CN will admit to the EJ&E line;
- Projected freight rail traffic increases of 80% over the next 20 years in the Chicago area.

All this traffic would be added to a rail line currently carrying only 3-5 trains per day.

In consideration of the hugely negative consequences of this acquisition to the entire Barrington region, I respectfully and most strenuously urge you to reject this proposed acquisition. The drawbacks overwhelmingly outweigh the benefits.

Sincerely,



Arthur Holzknacht

