

202-565-9100

1013

ATTENTION CATHY GLIDDEN

FD 34672

EI - 2418

To the Surface Transportation Board,

We are sending this to voice our concerns surrounding the proposed trackage swap of the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Railroads. We are at our wits end. We built our house 22 years ago. The railroad is 320 feet from our home. Back then the railroad was Frisco and it may have run 6-12 trains a day and the were very short not ordinarily over a dozen cars and always a caboose. Burlington Northern bought them out and they run 10 or more trains a day hardly ever smaller than 75 cars per train. Now we find out Union Pacific wants to buy or use these tracks also. We have counted over 100 cars per coal train pulled by UP or BNSF engines. We have documented how fast these trains are going. A coal train passed our house in 1 minute and it had 135 cars. This is simply too fast for me to be convinced safety is a concern for the railroad. I was outside in the pasture tending to our animals and one of these coal trains zoomed by and it is very frightening to be anywhere near one of these monsters when they are running that fast. The vibrations from these trains remind me of an earthquake and the damage to my home is devastating. We have worked to have a nice home for the last 22 years and to see the damage that is being done to this home makes me sick. Our basement exterior walls now have at least 50 cracks in it. In 1990 it took a 4.6 earthquake to cause the one and only crack we have ever had in the same basement walls that now have a minimum of 50 cracks. There are at least 16 of these cracks that extend through the wall to the inside. Our Anderson windows are only 8 years old and the interior trim on these windows is cracking, our doors are sagging, the brick on the front of our house is cracking, the mortar between the bricks is cracking. Our driveway has developed 4 cracks in it, the nails holding the aluminum trim on the house is backing out, this movement is allowing water to infiltrate and causing the window frames to rot, we fear this will

2e-13

cause mildew and mold to invade the interior of our home. My chimney, I fear is unusable due to the cracking of the bricks, mortar and clay liner inside the chimney. There is cracks in the sheetrock inside the hose and my basement walls have a 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch gap between them and the floor.

We are using a lot more light bulbs now due to the shaking. It shakes bad enough that the shower door rattle when a train passes. This has not happen since the earthquake I mentioned before.

The quality of life is all but gone, due to the horns blaring and the shear noise they cause as they go by.

My wife has to take medication to sleep at night; I fear this is leading to health issues.

From 10 pm to 7am there is usually a minimum of 5 trains that go by causing what feels like an earthquake.

There has also been at least 2 times a BNSF train has blocked a crossing for 1 to 1 1/2 hours and not to mention at least 2 times children have been told by a person of authority to crawl under the train to get home after school. This needs to stop before some innocent child gets hurt or killed.

Hopefully this will indicate how sick we are of these trains.

We have tried to sell this house and sill want to sell it, it was on the market for over 9 months. The real estate people told us the trains will hurt the sell of this home and I am convinced it prevented this home from being sold.

Please be so kind as to help us find resolution to this problem we are facing, the railroads swapping tracks will not help anyone in this area, it will not create jobs and it certainly will not help the quality of life and as far I can see it do no good for anyone.

Please reply to my concerns and I would love to hear your opinions on this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you

Thank you

Terry Cobb

1748 County Highway 242

3283

Chaffee, Mo 63740

my phone # is  
719-200-2411