

**BARRINGTON TOWNSHIP**  
COOK COUNTY

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EUGENE R. "GENE" DAWSON  
Supervisor

D. ROBERT ALBERDING  
Clerk

LINDA POST  
Collector

November 14, 2007

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E1-3362

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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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. Rutson:

I am currently Supervisor at Barrington Township in the Barrington, Illinois area. In my capacity as Supervisor over the past 6 and one half years, I have the responsibility of the general welfare of the 5 communities within the Township. Barrington Township serves a vital purpose in the community by providing general assistance for those in financial need and assistance with taxation information. We depend heavily on lack of noise, low traffic, safety at grade crossings, etc.

It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Co, which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings, etc., and only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

There will be a significant impact on the clients we serve because they will have to travel to our location for us to provide the services necessary for their well being. If in the event they are unable to reach us in a timely manner, it could impact the quality of the service.

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The SEA should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impact on [noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings, etc. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,

Eugene R. "Gene" Dawson

