

Clinton County Board of Supervisors

Clinton County Administrative Building
1900 North Third Street

Tom Determann, Chairperson
Jim Irwin Jr., Vice Chairperson
Daniel A. Srp

Mailing Address:
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www.clintoncounty-ia.gov

October 10, 2020

Mr. Joshua Wayland
Surface Transportation Board
Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 36500
c/o VHB 940
940 Main Campus Drive, Suite 500
Raleigh, NC 27606

Dear Mr. Wayland,

The Clinton County Board of Supervisors objects to the proposed acquisition of the Kansas City Southern (KCS) by the Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP). Our reasons are as follows:

- Many of our residents have invested significantly into their homes along the route. Although they have grown to tolerate the noise, vibrations, and inconvenience of the current trains, they never imagined the magnitude of the proposed train traffic and the increased disruption to their lives.
- An increase in the number of trains will increase the likelihood of public safety issues such as pedestrian accidents, tank car leaks, or God forbid, a derailment. For those homes located between the tracks and the river, how are persons to escape after a derailment or other cause of a train stoppage, especially if they do not have a boat?
- The Surface Transportation Board's Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) does not read to have had data collection points in Clinton County or specifically in Camanche. We also question whether the study properly analyzed the impact of increasingly regular crossing closures on the ability of first responders to provide response to areas cut off during periods of crossing blockage.
- In Camanche alone, there are over 1200 residents living with the CP line between their 400+ homes and first responders. Acknowledged increases in quantity and length of trains combined with regular stops at the adjacent side track to allow trains to pass on a single track line (regular starts from stopped) will result in regular blockage of most or all crossings. The suggested solution of splitting the trains in the event of an emergency would add substantially to response times causing emergency response to become ineffective which would likely result in loss of life. The proposed "accommodation" of partially funding the closure of some of those crossings will not improve the ability of first responders to provide response with trains increasingly blocking crossings.

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- On Wednesday July 6, 2022 the CP closed the crossing at 291st St for over 6 hours without sufficient notification. This crossing is the sole access to a Clinton County Conservation campground and several residences. This park is a regular destination of regional school field trips. This closure caused a disruption in the ability of first responders to access the park, resulted in guests at the over 90 campsites being trapped in the park and prohibited Clinton County employees from getting to work. Clinton County has requested communication protocols be put in place so long term closures can be planned for and accommodated but have not received any response regarding our concern for the safety of the employees or guests of our park.
- Air emissions/quality will be impacted for residents living along the tracks.

We urge the STB to prioritize public safety, livability, the impact on personal properties, damage to properties, and environmental health of residents along the current tracks throughout our county. For these reasons, we request that the STB deny the merger of the Kansas City Southern (KCS) and the Canadian Pacific Railway Limited (CP) until appropriate accommodation of public safety concerns have been provided for.

Respectfully,



Tom Determann
Chair – Clinton County Board of Supervisors



Jim Irwin Jr.
Vice Chair- Clinton County



Daniel A. Srp
Supervisor- Clinton County

Cc: Congresswomen Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Joni Ernst
Mr. Andy Cummings – Canadian Pacific Railway