

BMS Station 6th grade student

February 11, 2008

The CN Railroad Crisis

The Canadian National Railroad company is attempting to purchase the EJ&E railroads in Barrington. I think the company shouldn't sell for safety and educational issues.

First of all, there are a couple of safety problems with CN. The freight trains of the CN can contain some hazardous materials. This is a big issue because the railroad tracks are located adjacent to the houses. If these materials got loose they could seriously injure or kill a lot of people. A second safety issue is train traffic. The trains could take longer to move since there would be so many more of them. This could cause car traffic, and when there are more cars, there is more of a chance there will be an accident. The same applies to the trains, higher amount, and higher probability. Safety is a big issue with the CN.

Another reason CN shouldn't buy the tracks is for educational reasons. The biggest school issue is the transportation. School buses are sent out every day to get students. Most of these buses will pass over the train tracks on their daily routes; if more trains travel on the tracks that could mean that the buses have to wait longer to pass the railroads and pick up the students. This would seriously delay school. Also, a lot of students walk to school and could suffer the same consequences as the buses. The students would also have more of a chance of being injured by the train, making it also a safety issue. The school system in Barrington is greatly affected by the railways.

In conclusion, CN should not buy EJ&E because it would seriously and negatively impact the school system and overall safety in Barrington.



CN Railroad Proposal

Canadian National Railroad has put out a proposal with their intention to purchase EJ&E Railroad, increasing freight train traffic by an astounding 400%. They want to do this because it cuts a significant amount of time off of their route. I am completely against this proposal because it will be increasing the amount of traffic backup, affecting property values, and causing many problems for the neighboring school districts.

One thing the Canadian National proposal will do is increase the amount of traffic backup that already exists, especially from the hours of five to seven PM. This may lead to delay of emergency vehicles, workers, and even you trying to get your children to basketball practice. Delaying of emergency vehicles is already a huge issue, because the EJ&E railroad spreads over most of Barrington, allowing no back ways or shortcuts. This can be a case of life and death to many 911 callers. And you already know how a freight train can cause your children to be as much as 20 minutes late to practices and games, not to mention twenty minutes late to work or a meeting. Is it really worth it just so Canadian National can have a more direct route?

The proposal is also being feared to affect property values. Many are thinking that property values will diminish because of the increased noise, pollution and traffic. If you live anywhere near the tracks, you already know how noisy it can get when a train is passing by. Imagine if the freight train traffic, which are all considerably longer than the regular Metra trains, increased by 400%? I can only imagine the amount of noise. That's not something that buyers are looking for. Not to mention the increased pollution. Already a whole lot of pollution is given off while freight trains pass – just imagine 400% more. So much for going green. Also, traffic backup could be causing cars to be taking shortcuts, many of which go through normally quiet village streets. This will most likely not appeal to home buyers.

The CN proposal, if it goes through, will also cause many problems for the neighboring school districts, especially my own, District 220. The buses can and most likely will become very off schedule on their routes, leading to students arriving late to school, or waiting to be picked up from school for who knows how long. Buses cross the EJ&E tracks 800 times every day. Another concern is the students who walk to and from school living in the village, many of which cross the tracks on their way to and from school. This proves to be a posing danger to all walkers, even those who just like to walk to the Starbucks in town after school, including my friends and I. If this happens, many worried parents, like my own, will be sitting at home, wishing, hoping, their children will make it home safely. Many parents do so already. Again, is a route becoming faster worth all of this?

As you can see, I don't think Canadian National Railway's proposal is a good idea. And while you may not have thought so before, this proposal has a big impact on your life, and all of those around you, whether it be the safety, traffic, or even the ever-present noise factor. do you think this proposal is wise, accounting for all of the troubles it will cause all neighboring towns? If you don't, like me, voice your opinion and let it be heard. Because if you don't – a lot of negatives are coming soon to a town near you.

~ By Lindsey Walker ~

~ February 11, 2008 ~

Surface Transportation Board

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