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July 27, 2008

STB
rcn 9/22/08

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE : STB Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Rutson:

As Chairperson of the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Hawthorn Woods, as a former Trustee on the Village Board, and as a 13-year resident, I am writing to express my earnest opposition to the proposed purchase of the EJ& E Railway by Canadian National. From the drafting of our village's Comprehensive Plan, to the thoughtful and thorough examination of every proposed development, I, along with many others, have devoted countless hours to preserving the rural, peaceful, and environmental character of our village. All of our efforts and decisions are made to improve and/or maintain the quality of life that our residents moved here for, as expressed in our **Community Goals**:

- 1.) To perpetuate a high-quality residential environment suitable for enjoying life in a spacious and quiet rural atmosphere.
- 2.) To enable the movement of persons and goods within the Village in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.
- 3.) To provide the maximum amount of active and passive open space for the enjoyment of all Hawthorn Woods residents.
- 4.) To provide the services and facilities essential for the protection, operation, and use of real property in the Village.
- 5.) To strengthen and maintain real property values and to promote a sound economic base for the Village.
- 6.) To preserve and enhance the natural beauty, uniqueness, and attractive appearance of the Village.

If the Surface Transportation Board allows Canadian National Railway to purchase the EJ&E rail line, the resulting consequences would violate every one of our community's established goals and would dramatically change life in Hawthorn Woods as we know it.

More and longer trains coupled with more vehicles idling at railway crossings (all of which are at grade-level) would result in significant noise and exhaust pollution while preventing critical fire, ambulance, and police emergency services from reaching and protecting our people and properties. (It is important to note that our village is *bisected* by this railway and that minutes matter! For example, most of our neighborhoods do not have community water service or fire hydrants, making it essential that a water truck arrive within minutes of a fire's detection.) Moreover, the increases in hazardous materials that would be transported over the rail lines and in the potential for collisions and derailments cause me much additional concern for our environment and the overall safety and welfare of our residents.

Our village does not have the resources to build the infrastructure necessary to mitigate these issues. Therefore, I request that you thoughtfully consider all of these impacts, and more, when making your decision.

There are other, less offensive, solutions to improve freight traffic management in the Chicago region (such as C.R.E.A.T.E.). Please choose environmental, personal and property safety before profit, and do not destroy the village and way of life we have worked so hard to develop and protect; do NOT allow CN to purchase the EJ&E!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susy Rein".

Susy Rein
Chairperson
Plan Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals
Village of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois