

September 29, 2008

Ms. Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I work in Barrington, IL at a subsidized apartment building for seniors with a low-income. I am writing to express my **opposition** to the prospective acquisition of the EJ&E line by Canadian National Railway. I strongly feel that this proposed transaction will have a tremendous negative impact on the community of Barrington and other communities along the proposed take-over route.

My main concern is for the residents of the apartment building that I work in. We have close to 120 residents in the facility, and the majority of them are over 62 years old (one resident has already celebrated her 100th birthday). Many of our residents are very frail. Almost everyday one of our residents needs to call 911 and go to the hospital. The only way for the paramedics to get to the hospital is by taking US 14, which has a EJ&E railroad crossing. If there is a long freight train going through Barrington, the paramedics will be unable to get to the hospital in a timely manner. This may result in the death of some of the residents en route to the hospital. Surely, I would not want that on my mind.

My other concern is getting to work on time. Again, the only way for me to get to work is by taking US 14. If a freight train goes through Barrington, how will I be able to get to work on time? There is no other way for me to get to work. We had a taste of the delays during the summer. One day as I was going to work, a freight train tied up downtown Barrington for about 20 minutes. This caused me to be late for work. I'm sure other people were also late for work that day. Can you imagine what it would be like if long freight trains went through Barrington 28 times a day? Barrington is not a very large town and the increase in train traffic will cause one big congestion problem, not just for 20 minutes, but for the whole day. This will cause thousands, not ten thousands of people to be late for work each and every day.

The increase in freight traffic will not only cause people who drive to work to be late, but it will also cause people who take METRA trains to work to be late. The EJ&E rail line crosses the METRA line in Barrington. During the morning and evening rush hours, METRA trains go through Barrington every 10-15 minutes. If a freight train goes through Barrington at the same time, it will effect the METRA trains and thousands of people will be late for work.

It is not feasible for Barrington to build overpasses since the tracks go through the main part of town and there is just not enough room to build overpasses.

I just mentioned two of my main concerns, but there are other concerns as well. The increase in freight traffic will also cause more air and noise pollution. Traffic congestion throughout Barrington will be tremendous and this will cause a back up of traffic into Palatine, Fox river

Grove, Crystal Lake, lake Zurich as well. Basically US 14 and Il 59 will be one big problem. What about the school children getting to school on time?

Please do not let us be "railroaded" by Canadian National. Please put people first and vote against the acquisition of EJ&E by Canadian National.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margie Michalewski', with a stylized, cursive script.

Margie Michalewski

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