

STB Finance Docket No. 35087

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The Cummins Family
741 Spruce
Barrington, Illinois 60010

January 22, 2008

To the Transportation Safety Board: (Phyllis Johnson-Bell)

My family has been residents of the Barrington area for six years. The proposed increase of traffic on the freight lines through the Barrington area will dramatically affect our day-to-day travels, our health, our children's safety and the noise level in our neighborhood.

My wife must cross the freight tracks in question in order to get to work, this increased freight traffic could add up 30 minutes to her already long commute.

We are concerned that our son's middle school is on the opposite side of the tracks as well. Should there be an emergency of any kind, and there is a freight train hindering our ability to respond or get to her, it could be devastating. BOTH middle schools in our district are on the south side of the freight tracks, so this would apply to ALL families with middle school age children north of the tracks.

We are concerned about the debris, garbage and noise the trains make. We live close enough to the tracks to hear the trains and they make a lot of noise as they use hold the horn the whole way through our town. It is very loud with our windows shut. We are concerned as our son's go into town on their bikes about the debris and garbage the train throws off as it passes through.

We are very concerned with three children about the hazardous material these trains will be hauling through our neighborhood. We can see many dangers to the health of ourselves and our children.

Business in Barrington would suffer tragically. We frequent the small shops that make up the economy in Barrington. Increased traffic to get to the downtown area would push customers away from shopping in the area. Most of us would be forced to take our business to neighboring towns. It's not worth waiting an extra 30 minutes in train traffic to frequent these places of business.

Our property is close to the freight tracks. When purchasing our home, we paid a premium for a beautiful, quiet, neighborhood. This proposal would cause dramatic change to our quality of life and our ability to resale our home, not to mention the change in our property's value.

Finally, researching recent train derailments and the damage to people and property in the surrounding area, I would think you would strongly object to this deal for Canadian National. The freight tracks in the proposal travel too closely to private homes, schools and condensed areas of our community. Any derailment of toxic or flammable substance would be a catastrophe.

Thank you for researching this proposal and listening to the citizens it would effect.

Sincerely,


Dr's Craig and Rebecca Cummins

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EI&E EIS - FD-35087

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