

September 8, 2008

US Senator Barack O'Bama
230 S Dearborn Street
39 th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Senator O' Bama,

We are writing this letter to strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 6707. We live in the Braemar subdivision in Lake Zurich/Barrington, IL and would be adversely affected if freight trains started rolling continuously through our community. Train tracks cross both entrances to our subdivision within a few feet.

We are urging you to vote for this bill for the following reasons:

- 1.) Land use and socioeconomic – The increase in train traffic would devalue the properties and land in communities abutting the tracks. The proposed transaction would disrupt travel patterns, increase travel times and restrict accessibility to Lake Zurich and Barrington. A developer just withdrew a \$22 million dollar construction project for an affordable/assisted senior living facility because of the anticipation of the increased train traffic. Businesses will be adversely affected because fewer people will support the establishments if they know that they need to add an additional 15 minutes commuting time because of the train traffic.
- 2.) Safety - Recently, three separate accidents occurred in our community involving the death of children. Regardless of fault, greater train frequency will increase the probability of such accidents. Many children cross (both driving and walking) these railroad tracks on their way to school, not only before and after school, but during the day. High school students can leave the school on their lunch hours and open periods. They go home, by friends' houses and to local eateries. How many of these students will try to beat the train to make it back to school on time? An ambulance, police car or fire engine will take additional time to reach our subdivision in an emergency. When seconds count, an extra five to ten minutes can mean life and death.
- 3.) Hazardous Materials Transportation – What types of hazardous materials will be transported through our community? Despite attempts by the village to secure information of the types of chemicals that would be going through our town, CN has provided NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION. Where are the trains headed? Are these goods benefiting anyone in the Chicago area, in Illinois, or in the United States? We understand that the trains will be transporting goods to Latin America. If this is not benefiting the Chicago land area or the state, then having these trains rolling through our community is unacceptable.

- 4.) Noise and Vibration – Should the CN gain control of the rail corridor, they must agree to take all measures to maintain the quiet zone. These areas will require sound barriers such as the noise walls used to protect residents from highway noise. The vibration from the constant trains will definitely affect the foundations of those homes closest to the tracks. Will CN have the funds to do all this and yet maintain the charm and small town feel of Lake Zurich and Barrington?
- 5.) Transportation Systems – Traffic will back up over the tracks in many parts of town during rush hours. How will students get to school as well as people getting to work and elsewhere through all this traffic congestion?

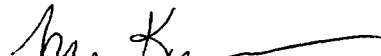
As five voters in the state of Illinois, we strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 6707 and stop the harmful acquisition of the E, J & E Railroad by the Canadian National Railroad.

Sincerely,


Christine Kurek


Paul Kurek


Dana Kurek


Michael Kurek


Lindsey Kurek

cc: Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
Ref: STB Finance Docket NO. 35087