

To the Surface Transportation Board
Regarding the Proposed acquisition of the EJ & E Railway Company by
the Canadian National Railway Company.

I would like to go on record as a concerned resident of Barrington, IL who is strongly opposed to the proposed acquisition of the EJ & E railway by The Canadian National Railway Company. After attending meetings and reading the available information, I am convinced that this purchase would not be in the best interest of our community. The only interest for this company is profit. In order to increase their efficiency and therefore profit they need to bypass the city of Chicago.

Meanwhile our quality of life would be substantially reduced. The safety of our community would be impaired due to increased travel times for emergency vehicles, not to mention the substantial increase in hazardous materials the CN would transport through our community DAILY. Our school district would face significant delays and safety issues transporting our children DAILY. This does not paint the picture of a desirable community in which to live and raise a family. Our property values would be greatly diminished. The businesses of Barrington would have little chance for success. Given a choice I would not shop where I would waste time dealing with delays and congestion due to increased train traffic.

Sadly, we have lost two young teenage boys in our community to train/pedestrian accidents. Both were friends to my boys. I shudder to think of the possibilities with an increase in train traffic and congestion in this area. Teenagers and adults tend to get impatient waiting for trains to pass. My fear is the increase in train congestion will cause an increase in people trying to beat the train by going around the gates. I pass over railway crossings many times daily in this community and have witnessed cars and pedestrians going around railway gates more than once.

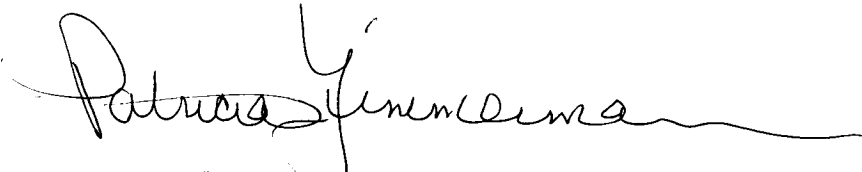
I found it puzzling when I attended the open house portion of the STB meeting at Barrington High School. In speaking with the representatives from the STB I walked away thinking their opinions and findings were not in the best interest of the community of Barrington. They seemed to be trying to sell us information that was not completely accurate. One gentleman told me it only would take two minutes of my time to wait for a mid sized CN freight train to pass through one of the train crossings I pass over daily. He also admitted that the train size would likely increase. I told him I had waited two minutes just that day and no train

had even passed yet. He never mentioned the delay time for the 20 cars backed up behind me. Please keep in mind what the implications would be if there were an emergency vehicle waiting at this crossing. EVERY SECOND COUNTS. It would be tragic if help were delayed for several minutes or more because it was sitting at a train crossing waiting for a freight train to pass.

I sincerely ask the STB to take the time to draft a REALISTIC picture of the impacts this acquisition would have on our community before making any decisions. Remember that Barrington's residents, special services, and businesses will see NO BENEFIT from this acquisition.

In making your final recommendations please keep in mind that the safety and quality of life of so many should not be negatively impacted for the profits of big business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patricia Zimmerman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia Zimmerman
27347 W. Cuba Rd.
Barrington, IL 60010