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Tom & April Powers

15 Elm Place
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

September 29, 2008

Ms. Phyllis Johnson Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E St. SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: #35087 - Canadian National Railroad

Dear Ms. Johnson Ball:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the proposed Canadian National Railroad purchase of the EJ&E Rail line which passes through Lake Zurich and Barrington (just a couple of examples). I personally cross these railroad tracks 6 times a day (3 times going to work, 3 times going home). The extreme increase in trains passing through these and other towns all along the rail line on a daily basis will cause traffic gridlock, and would be a major problem for emergency vehicles (fire, ambulance, police, etc.) responding to emergencies. There is also a greater danger of train/auto or, even worse, train/pedestrian accidents with this increase in train traffic.

Another concern is the possibility of derailments which could mean the possibility of hazardous waste spills, not to mention the increased noise and vibration through our towns. Finally, these small towns do not have the funds to pay for crossing improvements which would be needed because of the increased train traffic, and the homeowners and businesses who are located along the rail line would suffer diminished property values and quality of life.

Please help us fight this battle! Thank you for your consideration.


April Powers

#35087