

September 30, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

I am a resident of Barrington, Illinois. My home, where my family and I have lived for 7½ years, is not far from the railroad tracks that run through Barrington. I understand that the Canadian National Railway project would bring at least 15 more trains per day down those tracks. This announcement alarmed me greatly. I became even more concerned when I heard that this estimate did not account for large increases expected in train traffic throughout the Chicago area over the next 20 years. The drastic increase in safety, traffic, noise problems at rail crossings, etc. will affect my family's quality of life and the quality of the environment in my community, as well as the other families and communities that run along the EJ&E line.

This is already an issue of grave concern in our community. It takes 20-30 minutes to drive less than one mile through town because of the dual railroad track system already in place in Barrington. There are 3 places in our little town that the EJ&E railroad crosses on major thoroughfares – Main Street (600 feet from the high school), Barrington Road (Route 59), and Northwest Hwy (Hwy 14). If one train comes through, our fire and police department cannot get through for assistance. What do we do if there is a fire or someone threatens our safety?

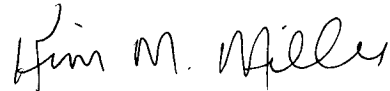
Unless I have or make extra time, or absolutely must go that way, I try to avoid going through the area whenever possible, and I am a resident! I can't imagine how it is for all the other commuters who pass through this area. To add more rail traffic would cause complete gridlock and/or overflow into our neighborhoods. It has already begun to affect our downtown businesses. In fact, several companies have turned away from deals agreed to because of the negative potential this purchase will have. In this already difficult economic climate, I believe it will destroy the future of our town.

The EJ&E tracks run 600 feet from our high school, which my daughter will be attending next year. I am seriously concerned for her safety, as well as that of our high school students and other residents. We've had 3 railroad related deaths within the past 6 months; occurrences are definitely going up.

The noise level can be overwhelming, especially during the fall and winter months. A train woke me the other night - it sounded as though it was in my backyard, although the tracks are actually 3-4 blocks away. Train vibration is another issue, and the potential for accidents and toxic spills yet another.

I have been informed that you are responsible for reviewing Canadian National Railway Company's proposal. These items warrant serious consideration before you allow Canadian National to move forward. You hold the safety and well-being of not only my family, but that of an entire region in your hands. I trust that you and the rest of the Board will thoroughly review Canadian National's proposal for any and all effects on the environment and affected communities. **I urge you not to approve this proposal – at least until you are certain noise, air, safety, traffic for the entire region will not suffer!** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim M. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kim" and last name "Miller" clearly legible.

Kim M. Miller
212 Skyline Drive
Barrington, IL 60010