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Comment Form for the Surface Transportation Board

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

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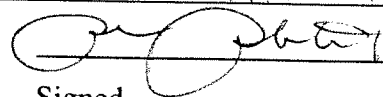
Phone: 847 540 9044

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How will CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E impact you?

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THE CN ACQUISITION
WILL AFFECT OUR FAMILY, AND UNFORTUNATELY
ALL ARE NEGATIVE. THE SIGNIFICANTLY INCRE-
ASED TRAFFIC WILL INCREASE NOISE, VIBRATION,
DUST, RATE OF RESCUE TIME, POSSIBILITY OF
CATASTROPHIC ACCIDENTS (CN'S RECORD IS THE
WORST IN THE NATION) AND DISTURB RAILWAY
ECOSYSTEMS (LIKE THE CUBA MARSH, HOME TO
ENDANGERED/THREATENED WILDLIFE).

MY CONCERN WITH THE TRANSACTION GOES
BEYOND MY PERSONAL CONCERNS, HOWEVER.
JOHN KVEDARAS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF CN,
STATED THAT INCREASED TRAFFIC COULD BEGIN
AS EARLY AS THIS SUMMER. THIS DOES NOT
ALLOW FOR APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL,
SAFETY OR ANTI-COMPETITIVE IMPACT STUDIES,
LET ALONE REMEDIATION BEFORE THE START



Signed

OF VASTLY INCREASED TRAFFIC. SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE/NEGATIVE IMPACT (PERHAPS UNFIXABLE)
MIGHT OCCUR. COMMON SENSE SAYS THAT TRACKS
BUILT 50 YEARS AGO FOR A FRACTION OF (OVER)

THE PROPOSED TRACK, COULD FAIL. A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY MUST BE COMPLETED TO AVOID THIS. SIMILARLY, NOISE-, DUST-, VIBRATION-LEVELS ^{STUDIES ARE NECESSARY} TO AVOID HEALTH HAZARDS AND THE ENSUING LEGAL ACTIONS. A 2 MILE TRAIN, GOING 30 MILES AN HOUR OVER OLD TRACKS IS VERY LOUD - PERHAPS LOUD ENOUGH TO DO PERMANENT HEARING DAMAGE TO CHILDREN LIVING ALONG THE LINE. AGAIN, COMMON SENSE DEMANDS A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BEFORE THE DAMAGE IS DONE.

LASTLY, NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF THE POTENTIAL ANTI-COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THE SALE. WITH THE "BYPASS", CN NOW CONTROLS ALMOST ALL OF THE TRAIN GUES AROUND CHICAGO. THIS APPEARS TO BE PART OF A LARGER PLAN BY CN TO CREATE A RAIL SUPERHIGHWAY AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICAN RAILWAY.

A FULL STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL MONOPOLY STATUS IN CHICAGO (A HUB THAT OPENS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO SOUTH BOUND FREIGHT) ~~IS REQUIRED~~ ^{IS REQUIRED} ~~BEFORE~~ ^{BEFORE} ALLOWING CN TO BUY AND OPERATE THESE TRACKS. CN HAS ALMOST UNLIMITED RESOURCES FROM THE CANADIAN GOVT.

IN SUMMARY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE CN (A FOREIGN COMPANY) HELD TO THE SAME STANDARD AS A COMMON AMERICAN DEVELOPER - EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE BEFORE IT OCCURS. CN WAS ABLE TO OPERATE WELL AND PROFITABLY LONG BEFORE THE BJT Acquisition. TOO MANY PEOPLE/PLACES/THINGS WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED WITHOUT PROPER ASSESSMENT OF THE FULL COSTS OF THE PROPOSED SALE.