

January 27, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC 20423
Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

RE: **Environmental Filing**
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

Log and Distribution

Date Rec'd: _____

EDS File No: _____

STB File No: _____

STB File No: _____

Comments Due Date: _____

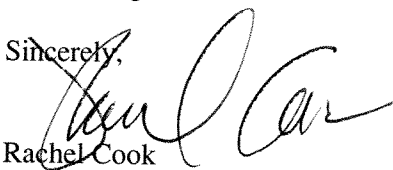
Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball

Thank you for attending the Scoping meeting in Barrington. I appreciate the time the STB is taking in assessing this transaction. I wrote to the Board initially in September 2007 articulating my concerns with the proposed sale of the EJ&E line to Canadian National Railroad. I will reiterate my most pressing concerns again.

- We live in a distinct community where we rely on three major arterials to move traffic in any direction – north-south, east-west, northwest. The Union-Pacific Northwest Metra commuter rail also runs through our community. **The EJ&E rail crosses over ALL these streets and rail lines in the heart of our community.** Additional train traffic will exacerbate current congestion.
- More train traffic will mean more train stoppages on the tracks enroute through our community. I have witnessed teenage boys on bikes trying to climb over freight trains stopped on the EJ&E lines just to get to a McDonald's on the other side. We have a public library and a new community park that abut the rail line. Both see high volumes of children. I am concerned about our children's safety getting to and from these destinations. Suburbanites already rely too heavily on our cars - must we now drive our children three blocks to the park and library to ensure their safety?
- Our one community hospital lies on the opposite side of the tracks from our fire and ambulance response teams. The volume of additional train traffic will put lives at risk on a daily basis.
- Federal law currently requires trains to sound their horns twice on the approach of any intersection. I have attached to this letter, a map and aerial view of our house in relation to the EJ&E line. Our house sits less than 100 feet from this track, between two intersections. Because of the Federal law, we are subjected to horn blasts at all hours of the day and night. Because of the noise, we are never able to have our windows open. Even with our windows closed, it is difficult not to have our sleep interrupted most every night. Traffic levels proposed as a result of this acquisition would render our home and virtually every home in the immediate neighborhood uninhabitable.

I have seen train traffic increase on this line in the five years we have lived here as EJ&E has leased the line to other rail companies. This increase has already negatively impacted my family's life and the life of our community. Please deliberate carefully on this proposed acquisition, and stipulate appropriate mitigative relief before freight traffic on this line is increased by even one additional train per day.

Sincerely,


Rachel Cook
535 Elm Road
Barrington, Illinois 60010
847-756-4197

Evidence 2B1 535 Elm Road Barrington PIN:13-36-202-015 Google Map Railroad Intersections

