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January 22, 2008

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&S EIS - SD-15037
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Gentlemen:

HDR

We would like to register our concern regarding the proposed plans to increase rail freight through our area of Illinois, specifically the Barrington area.

We were both born and raised on the south side of Chicago and lived next to the Rock Island Railroad tracks much of our early years. We moved northwest and built our retirement home in Barrington Hills about 15 years ago. We are in our 70's now and both volunteer for Good Shepherd Hospital. As close as we are to the hospital, we are still on the other side of the railroad tracks. My husband had a heart attack a few years ago so the obvious concern for us is the time factor for the ambulances during an emergency.

This is just one of many concerns voiced by the people who live and work in the area. Barrington is a unique community in that it is only about an hour from downtown Chicago, but in this country setting many families are horse owners as we are. Some people still ride their horses down our country roads. We are trying to hang on to a little bit of quiet country life in this fast-paced world we live in and are, therefore, strongly opposed to this increase in rail freight.

Our children are all grown but our grandchildren live just down the road from us. Their school is on the other side of the tracks so this would impact getting to them during an emergency.

I'm sure you have heard all of the negative arguments. We just wanted to weigh in and add our nay vote to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Houlikan
62 Spring Creek Rd.
Barrington Hills, IL 60010