



Town of Sellersburg
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September 17, 2013

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Room 1104
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. FD 35523, CSX Transportation, Inc. – Joint Use – Louisville & Indiana Railroad Company, Inc.

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I am writing in response to your letter dated August 30, 2013 requesting comments on the Draft EA on behalf of the Town of Sellersburg, Indiana (hereinafter the "Town"). According to the letter, the Town has four (4) trains that pass through on a daily basis and the proposed increase is to seventeen (17) trains. This is over a 400% increase for the Town and creates great concerns within the community.

The Town is a medium sized town with the train tracks traversing through the heart of it. There are many homes on either side of the tracks and there are five (5) railroad crossings within the Town's limits. Only one (1) of which has crossbars. Furthermore, one of the other crossings that do not have crossbars is one of the Town's main thoroughfares to the local park where middle, junior, and high school teams practices are held.

My first concern is the emergency response time of our local responders. The idea of having more and longer trains traveling through our Town is not a favorable option. As I stated previously, the Town is a medium sized town and if there is an emergency and a long train is on the tracks the responders might not make it to the call in time because for most of the Town there are only a few points of access to each street. The delay and lack of available secondary roads in our town makes the idea of having more and longer trains frequenting the Town a negative one.

Secondly, the current noise and vibrations of passing trains is already enough for majority of the citizens in our Town. I understand railroad transportation is a necessity, but increasing our existing traffic of trains by over 400% would be an **undue burden** on our community. We only have one crossbar intersection so when the trains pass through, especially after mid-night, they have to honk their horns for an extended period of time, which wakes numerous residents on a nightly basis. This is something that is complained about on a regular basis and is also a reason stated why some potential homeowners refuse to live in the Town.

Lastly, the proposed extensive increase in train traffic per day will create a substantial risk of danger for the Town's citizens. Majority of the railroad crossings within the Town do not have crossbars and if longer, heavier, and faster trains are passing through more frequently, it will only be a matter of time before there is a tragic accident. Therefore, at the very least, if this transaction commences despite our concerns and objections, I would request that CSXT and/or L&I create a quiet zone and install crossbars at every crossing prior to any increase in train traffic. This requirement would be an important and very positive step by the industry to minimize the negative impact on our community and demonstrate a sincere concern for the welfare and wellbeing of the citizens of our community.

Sincerely,



Paul Rhodes
Town Council President
Town of Sellersburg