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To: Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

From: Clare Snyder
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Barrington, Illinois 60010

OUT 8
11/11/17

I am writing to request, indeed plead, that you reconsider the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway Company by the Canadian National Railway Company.

As I have driven to various locations in our town delivering "Meals with Wheels" to shut-ins and elderly people in need of assistance, I have found that even before the considered acquisition takes place, with the present number of trains traveling along the tracks crossing not only Route 59 (Hough Street), but Lake Zurich Road, Northwest Highway, and Main Street at the same time, meaning that traffic could be at a stand still at all four crossings at one time, for ONE train. On one occasion recently, traffic headed south on Northwest Highway was backed up to a distance of several blocks northwest of Route 59. Traffic traveling south on Route 59 was backed up from the railroad tracks north to several blocks north of Northwest Highway. It was rather alarming to think that if there was a need for an emergency vehicle, it would be unable to take the fastest way north to the hospital because of congestion in all directions, and inability to find a good way around the train crossings. Needless to say, I was delayed in delivering some of the meals to people on my designated route who were waiting for their meals that day.

Another concern is the pollution which is estimated to increase if the acquisition is allowed to take place. Pollution not only of the air, but equally of concern, the pollution of our water system, and even more evident, the noise pollution which is already sometimes very loud due to the trains. People living near the train tracks in Shorely Woods and Jewel Park have expressed the notice of more noise as a result of additional number of cars on the trains, and the "rattle" of the cars, as well as the blowing of the horns, especially at night. I live a number of blocks away, and notice the noise, too.

As I consider the gains and losses involved in this possible acquisition, I can see a gain for the Canadian National company and the China company making the containers used by the trains. The people of this community in Illinois, the United States of America, will suffer the loss. Are not the safety and health of our citizens more important than foreign freight?

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Clare Snyder