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Subject: * Canadian National/EJ&E merger
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Message:

With regard to the proposed CN/EJ&E merger and the effect on the communities through which the EJ&E rail lines currently run, I believe the time has come for compromise. I reside in Hawthorn Woods, where the rail traffic is projected to quadruple if the CN/EJ&E merger is consummated. I'm sympathetic regarding our neighboring communities who are currently assuming the burden of CN rail traffic and, it's clear, they require some level of relief. As such, this issue should not be about pitting communities against one another in terms of who's quality of life will be made better or worse as a result of this merger. Instead, the discussion should center on how all of us, as a region, should find a way to share the burden. I'd recommend ensuring real economic participation on the part of CN in terms of converting 'at grade' crossings to above or below grade crossings. The \$30 million being offered by CN for this purpose would not begin to touch the amount needed to make this proposal livable. CN should also be obligated to limit the length of the trains passing on the EJ&E lines to no more than 3/4 of a mile (not the two mile trains currently running on the CN lines). CN should be compelled to guarantee the maximum number of trains per day that will run on both the current CN and EJ&E rail lines, as well as the times of day they will run. This should mean that 2 or 3 years from now, the current CN rail line communities should not experience additional trains on those rail lines simply because CN chooses to do so. Finally, it is imperative to have a workable, effective plan to deal with public safety and emergency management agencies and the additional hurdles they will face in light of the added train traffic in communities unaccustomed to it.

Thank you,

Bob Lueders