

10544

Other Submissions

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Docket #: -35087 - -

Subject: * Sale of EJ&E RR

First Name * Carl

Middle Name: J

Last Name: * Storz

Address: * 1306 Pima Lane

City: * Mt. Prospect

State: * IL

Zip Code: * 60056-1846

Email Address: * bcstorz@thestorz.com

Group/Affiliation: None

Message: As a resident along the current CNN right of way, I am in favor of buying the EJ&E and diverting some of the freight traffic to the underused EJ&E line. The "bypass" would free up the tracks on the old SOO Line (Wisconsin Central) and allow for better use of the METRA part of the same tracks as well as cut the number of 4 engine freights through the towns & cities along the current route. The population density along the current CNN route is far greater the that of the proposed EJ&E "bypass", therefore the EJ&E route would inconvenience far less people. Shouldn't it be for the benefit of the majority, instead of the benefit of the most influential. Does my vote or tax dollar count for less than my fellow citizens in Barrington, or Vernon Hills? This area, especially Des Plaines, is rail saturated and could use some relief. It's a difficult & costly solution I agree, but the railroads were king in the 1860's when they got their rights-of-way, but times change & the railroads have only partially changed. They have cut employees drastically, increased power & train length dramatically, improved right of way only as necessary to keep things moving, but neglected crossings almost as routinely as if they were the same dirt wagon tracks as were present when the tracks were constructed. We must urge, or force, modernization of this vital, but now co-habiting part of an ever expanding transportation system. A large part of this co-existence is the interface with other forms of transportation, ie. roads, bridges, etc. Although I am not an advocate of subsidizing private enterprise in general, we have provided locks, dams & harbors for marine transportation, streets & highways for road transportation, and airports for air transport, but only right-of-way for the original form of mass ground movement (and much of that was sold as prime real estate) was provided more than a century ago. We must improve the rail facilities around all of our metropolitan areas to provide for the free flow of rail & other traffic to benefit ALL the citizens. We are a century behind, let's start to move into this century NOW!