

September 30, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I am writing to you today to express my very strong opposition to the purchase of the EJ&E freight railway by Canadian National. I cannot imagine in how many ways it would ruin life as we know it in Barrington, IL. The traffic, which is already bad, will get much worse. Almost everywhere I drive I will have to cross these tracks. We have three boys who are all involved with many activities and getting them where they need to go will be a nightmare.

The safety issue scares me. Barrington High School is yards away from the railway tracks. Driving teenagers and families late for school will be tempted to get across the tracks before the crossing guards go down. I know it will happen. Stupid actions? Probably, but when it already takes ½ hour to drive 5 miles, the impact of all the new trains will make it much worse.

What about the ambulances and fire trucks? Again, to get from one side of Barrington to the other, everyone needs to cross these tracks. The individuals who require these services, maybe me and mine, will have to face the fact that they were not helped promptly because the help they needed was waiting for another 2 mile train to pass.

When we bought our home in Barrington thirteen years ago, we did not sign up for this kind of train traffic. It will be unacceptable. We all know CN will do nothing to help communities like Barrington that will be affected by this proposed purchase. Please, please, do not allow this purchase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura J. Marion". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laura" being more prominent.

Laura J. Marion
397 North Valley Road
Barrington, IL 60010