

July 19, 2008

STB Rec'd 9/22/08

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: STB Docket number 35087

Dear Ms. Rutson,

My husband and I are residents of Hawthorn Woods, IL and we are very concerned about the proposed purchase of the EJ&E railroad by Canadian National. We live right off of Midlothian (Illinois Rt. 63) right in between Gilmer and Old McHenry roads. If the proposed railroad purchase goes through, these very long freight trains would potentially block both roads (Gilmer and Old McHenry) at the same time. Already, to go what takes without traffic a two minute drive from my Summit Neighborhood to Gilmer Road takes 10 minutes due the heavy traffic we already have. If one is going Southeast on Gilmer or Southeast on Old McHenry in the morning, the lights at Midlothian are often backed up with 20 to 25 cars. The same is true on the way home going Northwest on Gilmer or Old McHenry. It can take 20 minutes to go on Gilmer from Darlington to Gilmer and Midlothian with a back up of at least 50 cars. If the railroad goes through, without modifying the existing traffic structure on the three roads mentioned, these travel time will be ridiculous at best. With this congestion, we are also very concerned about emergency vehicles getting through.

We were told that a commuter train would some day use these lines. Right now we must travel to Palatine or Mundelein to get a train to Chicago. Lake Zurich, Long Grove, Hawthorn Woods, Wauconda, Volo, and western Mundelein would benefit significantly more if these tracks could be used for commuter traffic.

Nora is on the board of our Summit Neighborhood Homeowners Association and all of the neighbors she has spoken to are also opposed to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Nora Coleman
Kevin Coleman