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 The Surface Transportation Board,
 STB Finance Docket No. 35087

February 1, 2008

Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

RE: Canadian National-Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway, through Barrington IL

HDR

I am writing you this note on behalf of myself and my family. We are very concerned with the impending change to the EJ&E line with the buyout by Canadian National. Our home is located in unincorporated Barrington, near the tracks north of town, by the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve.

My Topics of Concern:

Increased track use resulting in more wait time at crossings:

All of us are impacted by the train schedules. Both my husband and I cross the tracks every morning on the way to our respective work and every evening on our way home. My children also cross the tracks on their way to and from school. My 85 year old mother-in-law, who lives with us, recently had the need for 911 assistance, and the ambulance was delayed 24 minutes!

Will there be a traffic pattern analysis such that rail use will be restricted during peak traffic times to reduce the impact to commuters, and school bus transportation?

I would be happy to see an overpass, or underpass put in place to eliminate this conflict with current traffic patterns in the community.

Longer trains resulting in longer wait time at the crossings:

As with the points mentioned above, I see the same issues arising; we will have longer travel times to work and school, as well as a longer wait when going into town to shop, worship, and when in need of potential 911 calls.

Currently, I cross the tracks every time I leave my home to go to work, the grocery store, the library, the bank, my church, our parks and recreation areas, and to access any business in the downtown Barrington area. Furthermore, my rights as a tax payer to have police, fire, and ambulance assistance are separated from me by the rail road tracks. Providing for a family active in the community and living with an elderly person has put these conflicts to the forefront of my concerns.

Again, rail use reductions during peak rush hour and school travel times, is a must!
 An overpass or underpass would eliminate these conflicts.

Impact on Environment: Noise Levels, Vibration Effects, Air Quality, Nature:

As it is, we hear the trains as they pass, particularly in the evenings. The repetitive sounds drone on and have kept myself and my children awake at night. The whistle blasts have interrupted my sleep and woken me up in the early morning, also I have suffered migraines. We can feel the vibration of the trains on the tracks in our home! An increase in traffic worries me with regard to our sleep habits, my migraines, and the integrity of our house construction. Furthermore, increased rail use, equates to increased air pollution. The purpose of moving to the suburbs was to get away from the fumes and pollutants that the city and mass transportation inflict on the environment and the health of my family. Another environmental impact I am concerned with is the impact to Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. I am acutely aware of the wild life that passes through my yard. Deer, Coyote, Fox, Skunks, Raccoons, have all been spotted on their way to

and from the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve. I believe increased track use will greatly affect the wildlife in the area in an adverse way.

Will barriers be constructed to reduce the issues of noise? And protect wildlife?
Are there cleaner quieter engines, tracks, or transportation methods to mitigate these issues?

Safety Issues:

This is by no means least, and perhaps the most important concerns are general and specific safety issues. As a parent with small children who cross the tracks everyday on the bus, I am greatly concerned by increase use and longer, faster trains utilizing the tracks. These tracks are near public recreation areas that we all use. At it is there are minimal safety precautions in place at best. In the past we have had tragedies from bus accidents as well as individuals gaining easy access to the tracks, all with fatal results.

What will be done to insure that access to the tracks is only at designated road crossings?
How can these crossings be further improved to provide a safer way to cross?
Are there better warnings when trains are approaching?

Property Values:

The last point I want to make is the impact these issues will have on my property values. How am I going to recoup my investment in my home, when the selling factors have turned into liabilities? When it becomes too difficult and time consuming to get arrive or depart from this location to anywhere in the Barrington area; when response times for police, fire, and ambulance service are impacted by train schedules; when the home and neighborhood I live in have a constant background noise from trains and the vibration that put the integrity of my home at risk? What long term environmental health issues will occur to me, my husband, my children, and my elderly mother-in-law, if we stay in this home for the long term? Finally, all of us as well as the natural inhabitants we share this community with, will be at an increased risk with the increase use and duration of use these tracks are slated for!

In summary, it may be inevitable that this buyout goes through, but it is imperative that the impact to individuals, the community and nature, be assessed, addressed and mitigated. I have lived in this area for over eight years. We specifically moved to Barrington for the quality of life that it provides in a quiet, open setting that is close to nature.

On behalf of my family, and all the residents in the Barrington area, I ask that you conscientiously take into account the concerns of individuals, like myself, whose small voice is trying to make a difference, and please do the right thing.

Thank you for your proper attention to these matters.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Kolasinski".

Patricia Kolasinski and family