

Village of Lake Barrington

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SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

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

RE: IMPACT STATEMENT - CN ACQUISITION OF EJ&E RAIL LINE

To the Surface Transportation Board;

As the Village President of the Village of Lake Barrington, IL, on behalf of the Village and its residents who will forever be impacted by the decision of the Surface Transportation Board, we make this final appeal to the Surface Transportation Board to deny Canadian National Railroad's application to acquire the EJ&E rail line and consider the disastrous impacts to traffic and the public health and safety that approval of this acquisition and an increase in freight train traffic of more than 500% would have on the Barrington area. The Village of Lake Barrington's specific objections to this transaction, and to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement related thereto, can be enumerated as follows:

➤ **Traffic**

With eight (8) at-grade crossings in the Barrington area alone, a 500% increase in freight train traffic will shut down several of these at-grade crossings at the same time, leaving no viable right-of-way alternatives for motorists, including school buses and emergency response vehicles. Approval of this acquisition will irreparably damage our community by subjecting it to insurmountable delays in traffic, in emergency response times, in disrupted school bus transportation which currently includes more than 800 school bus crossings per day, in impossible access to downtown Barrington, and the immeasurable disruption of the lives of every area resident who must utilize one or more of these grade crossings to access their work, businesses, schools, places of worship, and/or other essential services.

➤ **Public Safety**

A 500% increase in freight train traffic will have a major negative impact on the 154-bed Good Shepherd Hospital, which lies in the heart of Lake Barrington, by causing life-threatening delays in emergency response times. Thousands of residents are served by this hospital, and ambulances and persons attempting to reach the hospital in emergency situations will encounter life-threatening delays in their ability to timely reach the hospital and may be forced to divert emergency responses to hospitals which are a much further distance away. Good Shepherd Hospital has a full-service trauma center and a state-of-the-art, award winning Cardiac Care center. In cardiac emergency cases, "time equals heart muscle".

➤ Noise

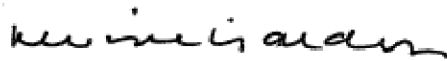
A 500% increase in freight train traffic in our community will expose residents and business establishments to untenable noise issues. While it is understandable that others would like freight train traffic rerouted to Barrington, it is fair to say that Barrington area residents did not purchase and locate their homes here with the expectation that the CN would increase the freight train load at least fivefold.

➤ Property Values

A 500% increase in freight train traffic and the resulting creation of a continuous freight train corridor with freight trains operating 24 hours per day 365 days per year, will not only depress the property value of homes and businesses throughout the Barrington area, but will also result in a negative impact our area's property tax base.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to give sufficient consideration to these disastrous impacts to our area. Therefore, on behalf of the Village of Lake Barrington and its residents, and the other communities that will be immeasurably affected by the decision of the Surface Transportation Board, I implore the Surface Transportation Board to deny the application of Canadian National Railroad to acquire the EJ&E rail line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Richardson".

Kevin Richardson
Village President