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1/24/08

My name is Kazi Sharmin Salem. I am talking on behalf of the Salem family from, **1 Olympic Drive, South Barrington** in **"The Woods of South Barrington"** subdivision. We vehemently oppose the CN acquisition of EJ&E Rail Line because it will dramatically accelerate the freight traffic by 566%, i.e., now it is 3 to 5 trains a day, then it will be 20 trains a day. The extent of noise pollution is unimaginable let alone the other issues like traffic congestion at the rail gates, blocked passage of emergency vehicles, school buses etc. Today I will focus on the noise issue. Even now my husband and I can not sleep at midnight because on certain days around midnight one train crosses the track and blows very loud whistles. We are puzzled why the whistle has to be blown. The track noise along with the whistles is really annoying. If the CN acquisition comes true, our area will be uninhabitable. The train whistles, vibrations and track noise will go from minimal to a near-constant sensory assault. Everybody knows sleep deprivation can badly impact on diseases like high blood pressure, heart disease etc. In children, it can cause poor performance at school, behavioral problem etc. My husband has health issues. He has high blood pressure. If this acquisition happens we have to leave this area. So this event does not serve the public interest, instead it serves only the profitability of a private company.

ELIAS SALEM
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Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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