

September 4, 2008

Phillis Johnson-Ball:

Our family moved to Mokena 20 years ago. We loved the friendly small town atmosphere, hearing crickets at night, and knowing our children were safe in this community. We remember driving home from an outing and knowing we were approaching our home because we could actually smell the difference in the fresh clean air. We have been privileged to raise our children in Mokena and now share our home with visits from our grandchildren.

We recently read the article in the Mokena Messenger about the proposal for the increased number of freight trains that will be traveling through our town. The increase in the noise and pollution caused by these trains should not be tolerated. We have managed to preserve green space and wetlands at perhaps a cost to us the local tax paying homeowners. Now, we feel compelled to take a stand against the noise and pollution that these trains will bring to our community.

Perhaps even more importantly, I am concerned about the train tracks and crossings themselves. Many homes with unfenced yards are built right up to the train tracks. The risk to children will only increase with the number of trains traveling those tracks. Additionally, we do not have viaducts, where the flow of traffic wouldn't be hindered by an excessive number of freight trains. For all of us that live in my subdivision, Green Meadows, there will be a traffic gridlock. The only road open to us that wouldn't necessitate crossing a train track would be LaPorte Rd., which is already becoming a much more heavily traveled road as it is used as the cut through to New Lenox.

Please consider another alternative. Don't destroy what we have paid dearly to preserve in our community.

Sincerely,



Richard Eisaman & Christine Eisaman