



Environmental Impact Statement

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Voicemail Transcript

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed
Canadian National Railway Company Acquisition of the
Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway Company
STB Finance Docket No. 35087**

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Transcript:

I've been reading and listening to a lot of the comments that have been made about the Canadian National's proposed purchase of the rail line through the Chicago southwestern suburbs and from what I've seen and from what I've heard, I think it's going to make a tremendous impact on the area to the negative aspect. What I think is going to happen by this is you're going to cut communities in half, you're going to cut sections of communities off from vital resources, you're going to create a dangerous situations where you have all of the schools in all of those areas located on the north side of those railroad tracks, which will mean you will have buses on an everyday basis crossing those tracks both ways, both to and from school, filled with students. You have an accident that's waiting to happen and god forbid a train hits a bus-load of kids and kills them all. This is a major impact to the communities in that area and I can tell you what's gonna happen right now, and I've listened to Mr. Lipenski try to discuss how it would reduce train traffic in the innercity portion of Chicago. I guarantee you right now that after a couple of years that the Canadian National has this rail they would be running 30 or more trains on this rail a day and then because those rails would be busy all the time, they would begin running trains in their downtown, their Chicago locations as well. So, all I could tell you is, you know, I think the mayor of Frankfort made a good point when he talked about moving this rail line 50 miles south where it would not impact anyone and as I understand, from reading it, the costs of doing that would be about the same as them purchasing the E&J Railroad line. I think it's ridiculous that you'll cut many communities in half and literally force people to leave their homes because they'd be cut off from vital services. 30 trains a day means obviously more than one an hour. Trains that are two miles or longer in length, means that in emergency situations people would be cut off from hospitals, police and fire would be cut off, ambulances would be cut off from reaching people. It's an extremely dangerous situation and can be simply avoided by moving that rail or having the rail purchase land 50 miles to the south as the mayor of Frankfort mentioned, the cost is the same, there would be certainly impact to Canadian National for fuel charges to move trains further from Chicago, however I think the cost of building overpasses at all of these major arteries throughout that area would cost a lot more. All I know that the decision is yet to be made, I know that there's some things going on in the state house in Illinois that may prevent this, but nonetheless I think you have the power to prevent this as well and if something isn't done to help the residents of these areas, I'm sure that it will have major negative impacts.

Thank you