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22648 Maddeline Lane
Frankfort, IL 60423

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

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

I am writing in opposition to the Canadian National (CN) Railway Company's acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern Railway. As a resident of Frankfort, Illinois, owning and living in a home off of Laraway Road, less than a mile south of the tracks, our health and welfare are at stake.

To begin, to access any medical facility (doctor's office, hospital, etc) within close proximity, we need to cross the tracks, either at Harlem Avenue or Pfeifer Road (heading north from Laraway Road). Due to the 400% increase in trains on those tracks, it scares me to think I or an emergency vehicle would be waiting at the tracks during a life or death situation. This is not and should not be acceptable.

Another scary fact is this railway will now be more likely to transport hazardous materials. My children go to church and preschool less than 200 yards from the railroad. And many homes are right next to the track. Combine this with an estimated increase of 28% in train accidents, there can and will be dire consequences. CN obviously has no concern for the people of this country (less this village) since they so easily disregard any safety concerns of the local population.

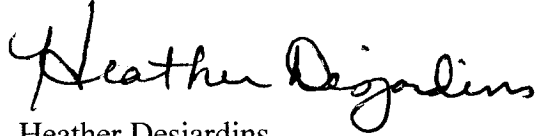
It has been stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that property values near the tracks will be reduced. I am certain that my home value will be negatively affected by this decision, given my proximity to the tracks, the noise, the pollution, and the fact that in order for me to access any amenities (doctors, library, grocery stores, restaurants, highway, etc), I need to cross those tracks. No one in their right mind will want to purchase a home on the south side of the tracks.

The most disturbing fact of this whole ordeal is that CN has offered to pay only 5-10% of the costs of grade separations and that the local taxpayers should pay the rest. How is this acceptable? A foreign company wants to run their trains through our towns and they want us to pay so they can increase their already large profit. Our village as well as others is currently not adept to handle this significant increase in trains. CN needs to bear the responsibility of these costs, not the taxpayers.

I truly hope you will take a hard look at the negative impact that this acquisition would have on our and surrounding communities and decide to REJECT this proposal.

Thank you for reading my letter and agreeing to listen to the people of the affected communities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Desjardins". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Heather Desjardins