

STB Rec'd
9/22/08

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson,

Regarding STB Docket #35087. We are writing this letter to voice our concern regarding the acquisition of the EJ&E by Canadian National. It is hard to imagine what our town would be like if this actually is approved. Here are our primary concerns:

- 1) Property Value – All homeowners in our neighborhood were aware of the tracks when we built. During the last 20 years the traffic was very limited and the trains were virtually inconspicuous. The proposed acquisition is totally opposite of what this area (not just our subdivision) offered to us as homeowners. This is not just a matter of overall property value; this is a dramatic change for the entire town and neighboring area. Who will be able to sell a home that is today worth \$600,000 - \$700,000 with what is being proposed??????? Between the additional train traffic, noise and pollution, our home values will plummet, not just decrease marginally.
- 2) Safety- Train traffic on Old McHenry, Gilmer Rd., and Rt. 22 already make it dangerous for our children on bikes and walking. How many kids (and adults) will try to "beat the train" when they recognize that the trains are 10 minutes long? What about derailments and transportation of hazardous materials? I grew up near Chicago close to the Burlington Northern tracks (freight and commuter), and in 10 years our town lost 2 children who were victims of train accidents. I must say that if anything ever happened, CN would be an open target to a lawsuit, and rightfully so.
- 3) Traffic Congestion – The towns of Hawthorn Woods, Lake Zurich and Barrington are already difficult to navigate during rush hours, and as the school buses are getting kids to school. What are we supposed to do if the trains are twice as long? We were also advised that there could conceivably be a second track implemented. How do we get to the hospitals? Doctors?

There has to be other solutions that Canadian National can consider besides ruining so many towns and people's lives that would be impacted by this very serious proposal.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. James Dehlerky