

12362

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Docket #: FD -35087 -0 -

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Message:

The proposed purchase of the EJ&E by the Canadian Northern would have a decidedly adverse effect on not only the environment of my neighborhood, but also possibly the resale value of my home. There is not question that rail transportation is one the most efficient and safest forms of transportation. In that regard, I endorse rail as the best means to move goods (and people) from A to B. Along those same lines, the purchase of the EJ&E right of way would seriously hamper the proposed STAR commuter rail extension; something that has been needed for a great number of years. Further, there is a grade crossing not far from my home (about 1 mile). The EJ&E has refused to put in crossing signals due to the expense. The end result is train whistle/horn noise, mostly at night. This crossing is frequented by employees of Fermi Lab, and visitors to the property, which contains a bike train to the Fox River, and a multitude of other areas for hiker and those who love the outdoors. If the CN were to:

1. Make arrangements so that the STAR line would be in no way adversely effected and,

2. Put in signals at Batavia Road, eliminating the constant whistle/horn noise, my objection to this sale/purchase would be considerably less.

My intent here is NOT to be a NIMBY (Not in my back yard). But I wonder, why not create a right-of-way well outside the Chicago area, completely bypassing the entire metropolitan area? Land is cheaper than it has been in quite sometime, and there are numerous right-of-ways still existing (although some have returned to farm land) west and south of Chicago.

This option to buy is no doubt cheaper than most, but is it the best long term solution?