

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball,

I am not normally a person who writes letters for causes but I feel this is very necessary as it will not only affect me but my children and every person in my community. I implore you to not pass the CN acquisition of the EJ&E railway. I can not say it any better then Tom Leonard from school district 220. His most important points:

- * The Barrington School District serves a combined population of more than 10,000 students and staff from a service area of 72 square miles and beyond.

- * Because the Barrington Transportation Company's fleet is based in the center of the Village of Barrington, significant delays and safety situations will occur throughout our district as buses cross the EJ&E line approximately 840 times per day to deliver students to and from ALL 12 schools.

- * The EJ&E rail line intersects seven major thoroughfares in our school district; therefore, increased freight traffic will dramatically affect the commute times of staff, students and parents, which could alter school schedules and jeopardize the safety of the region's children as they travel to and from classes.

- * Barrington High School is located only 600 feet west of the EJ&E tracks, raising critical environmental and safety concerns in the wake of increased freight traffic.

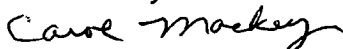
- * Approximately 1,700 of the high school's 3,000 students either walk or transport themselves to school each day. We can expect hurried or impulsive behavior among teens crossing the tracks as they rush to get to school, which could lead to tragic consequences.

- * In addition to these dangerous conditions, increased rail traffic will result in significant transportation disruptions, delayed emergency response times and added costs for school district taxpayers.

In closing **PLEASE PUT PEOPLE BEFORE FREIGHT!**

Sincerely,

Carol Mackey



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