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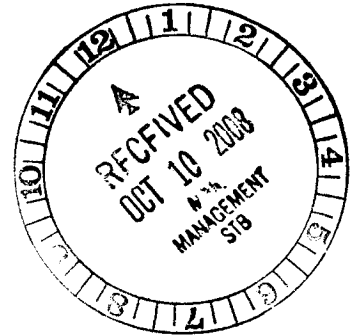
Surface Transportation Board members

9/26/2008

395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

From: Robert and Hazel Casper
227 Sandy Point Lane
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Re: Canadian National Railway thru Lake Zurich



Casper True Value Hardware is located next to the EJ&E rail line in Lake Zurich, fronting on South Old Rand Road. We have been neighbors for some 21 years and during that period we have had no problems with each other.

The hardware property is owned by me and my wife Hazel Casper. The store is owned and operated by our son John Casper. We have been located at this site for 21 years and were previously located in downtown Lake Zurich for another 23 years.

We are now faced with a change in the EJ&E ownership and the problems that will ensue. The freight trains will increase from three or four per day to possibly twenty-four trains per day. The trains will get longer and slower. The period the gates are closed will be prolonged. If this activity takes place and the purchase is approved by the Surface Transportation Board members, it spells bad news for Casper True Value Hardware.

Our major concern is the flow of traffic to the store's parking lot. Currently our customers easily gain access to the store lot from one of our two driveways. If the Canadian National Railway is allowed to come thru Lake Zurich, when the gates go down the roadway will fill with long lines of cars waiting and waiting for the gates to rise. This long line of cars would block the two driveways and prevent the flow of traffic to and from the store. If this problem develops, our customers will go elsewhere to avoid the lengthy delays caused by the CN Railway.

We ask that you vote NO. Please correct the problem, don't just pass the problem elsewhere.

We thank you for your help in this matter.

Bob and Hazel Casper



