

DOLORES S. PEARSON . 620 ELM ROAD . BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS . 60010

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

September 29, 2008

Re: Canadian National's Pending
Acquisition of the EJ & E RR
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

If the CN gets its way, I WILL BE A SLUM LANDLORD, because at my age, if I have to sell my home, I won't be able to I'll have to rent it to an individual who can only afford low rent. Home buying in our area has just stopped because people are afraid "THE TRAINS ARE COMING". I am one of the residents of Barrington, IL, living within 250 feet or less from the EJ & E tracks. Up to now, Barrington has had no "bad" areas at all. . . . the CN will make sure that changes. We will have a "SLUM" area right through the middle of a very well-to-do Barrington! Traffic will stall so badly that businesses will fail, the tax revenues will go way down, so the schools that people moved here for, will no longer be the "tops". Ambulances won't get to the hospital in time to save lives. Fire trucks won't be able to get to a fire in a normal time frame. We will have to worry about spilled contaminates entering our water source.

We will all have to allow an extra half-hour for every errand or trip to work, because we will run into freight train delays on every important road in our village. A good portion of 9,000 school children on school buses that cross the tracks over 800 times a day, will be late for school. Safety is a big issue for those children who walk or bike to school, and the Barrington High School is 600 feet from the tracks! Chicago's freight trains have built up over years, and the surrounding businesses and homes have had time to adjust. Barrington and the other villages in CN's path, would have an over-night crisis that would be unimaginable... and our property values would crash over-night also. That part has begun already. The fear-factor has been working only too well.

No one addresses the noise factor enough! About two months ago, CH 5 had a segment about noise in the city causing learning disabilities and depression... and that was from traffic and regular neighborhood noise. What can we expect from living near tracks with 20 to 40 freight trains roaring by every 24 hours? Stopping train "whistles" won't do a blessed thing. . just stand across the street while a freight train goes by, and try to think beautiful thoughts. No one will want to move to Barrington anymore because of the traffic, and the fact that our schools won't be up to their old standards, and there won't be decent shopping.

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If you think WE are fighting mad, can you think what elite Lake Forest, IL would do if they were up against the same problem? There are people here who are depending on their home values for their retirement. . . .I can imagine, depending on how close you are to the freight trains, your home will go down in value accordingly, to a fraction of what it is in the present. And the CN study admits that some homes within 250 ft. of a rail line could decrease in value, & this would have only minor, negligible effects. It may be insignificant to THEM, but to some of us, our whole lives will be turned upside-down. This is an insult to our intelligence! CN doesn't even know how many homes fall into that "250 ft. or less category"never mind that the noise is practically the same whether it's 250 ft. or 500 ft.! **One Barrington resident says he lives 2 ½ miles away from the EJ&E and he can still hear the trains. They have to be kidding, to imply that another 50 feet beyond the 250 feet, and the trains won't bother us! OR that our house will keep it's value!** There must be thousands of homes with 500 ft. or less along the proposed new route that the Canadian National plans to reroute freight to circumvent Chicago. Congress wouldn't let Communists take over, they'd be up in arms. . . . why should they let really stable, desirable, wealthy towns and villages be destroyed by **ANOTHER COUNTRY** using freight trains. . . and the other country makes all the profit, while WE pay the price for destroying our lives and home values, **PLUS** pay extra to build bridges and underpasses?

It hasn't been pointed out enough, that the City of Chicago area built up slowly throughout the years around the railroad. Buildings and homes that were built around it were aware that freight trains ran day and night. The home and land values there have been stabilized for years and years. **OUR** railroad, the EJ&E, never had enough trains to bother anyone living close to it. **OUR** home values were built around that fact. We have very high home values even close to the tracks and they will plummet overnight. Barrington is having a hard time selling homes already because of this CN Acquisition being held over our head. Businesses have cancelled being built here. Why turn over a million people's lives and finances, and a possible 40 communities that could lose forever, their livability and standing as desirable places to live, to put more money in the pockets of another country's investors? Does that make sense to you? The reason America has been so great is because the people, the taxpayers, have always been considered **FIRST!** What happened?

Thank you for letting me vent!



Dolores S. Pearson
620 Elm Road
Barrington, IL- 60010
dolorespear@aol.com