

August 27, 2008

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I am writing to voice my unwavering opposition to the approval of the sale of the E, J & E Railroad to Canadian National railroad. I have organized a march from my neighborhood in the Village of Barrington to Barrington High School this afternoon help do the same.

As a mother of four children under the age of 16, including one new driver, my concerns about the potential of this sale are many.

They are as follows:

1. First and foremost I am concerned from an **emergency response standpoint**. Increasing the traffic on the E, J & E line WILL have a devastating effect of the response time emergency vehicles will encounter when responding to an emergency situation. (ie. Fire, ambulance/medical personel)
2. With the freight having the potential be **hazardous material**, I am concerned about the increase in having such materials travel through the heart of our village over several different crossings increases the risk of spillage or a leak of some kind. Having these specific set of tracks in the Barrington area cross through our area FIVE times makes it too difficult to respond to and too dangerous.
3. I drive my children to our local private school, and the traffic in town is already an issue. **Increasing freight traffic** through this village will only compound that issue and put an undue burden on our home town. (Given that 75% of Canadian National traffic passes through Chicago and more than 60% of the railroad is owned by Canadians, it seems hardly fare to saddle us with this burden.
4. The **environmental impact** alone should be enough to stop the sale of the E, J & E tracks to CN. The number of wet lands, prairie, stream, and creeks

in Barrington stands the chance of being dramatically negatively impacted by the potential of this sale. Also, I do NOT understand why the Crab Tree Nature Preserve is not a recognized site.

5. The impact on the **safely of our children** in the 10 area grade schools, middle schools and high school, not to mention the numerous Barrington area pre-schools is beyond frightening to me. Thousands of children walk across the tracks on Main Street, which sits only two blocks from Barrington High School, on a daily basis. My new 16 year old driver has to cross the tracks a minimum of one and on some occasion two times to get to her private high school. No matter what the signage, crossing gates, etc. used, there is still an increased chance of accidents at railroad crossings especially where new drivers are concerned. And why is it that schools that are located within a ½ mile of a train crossing are considered by the STB? The entire area needs to be looked at as one given the number of students within District 220!
6. The approval of this sale **WILL decrease the property value** of my home, of my neighbor's homes and of business real estate in the town of Barrington. I am already aware of one business which left our community due to the mere threat of this potential sale.
7. The mitigation I have read about as being possible is a joke! We will all face increased noise, air pollution, vibration and unsightly graffiti on the trains as well. Fencing, signage and general dissemination of information **IS NOT SATISFACTORY MITIGATION!** If this sale is approved, Barrington needs grade surface changes and/or tunneling!

I urge you to PLEASE consider the points noted in this letter and PLEASE RECOMMEND AGAINST THE SALE OF THE E, J & E RAILROAD TO CN.

Sincerely



Maria T. Liedlich

838 South Country Drive
Barrington, Illinois 60010