

1845 Avon Drive
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
August 26, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Dear Phillis Johnson-Ball:

This letter is in regard to the proposed purchase by the CN Railroad of what are tracks that go around metropolitan Chicago to the west, train travel that currently amounts to 5 trains per day. With the expected increase in train travel to 20 trains per day on this line if CN Railroad is successful in their purchase, life in the collar communities will be impacted greatly.

What seems on the surface to be a quick and easy solution to limiting train traffic elsewhere is going to fall hard on other neighbors in towns like Barrington, IL that have multiple crossings of this and other train lines. This hardly seems like a solution when it is going to negatively impact the lives of thousands and thousands of Illinois citizens on a daily basis. It is merely shifting a problem from one group of people to just "move it west" and impact "other people." Well, we are the "other people" and this is not an acceptable nor fair solution.

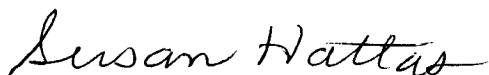
I live in west Hoffman Estates and cross these train lines on Shoe Factory Road several times each day; to and from work, every time I go to the grocery store, the Post Office, just about anywhere I go. Shoe Factory Rd. is the main artery in and out of my area. Even with current train traffic, being stopped for a train on Shoe Factory Rd. causes a delay, especially when trains totally stop while waiting for the "go ahead" to go through Barrington, the next town north. Often trains just sit there and sit there for extended periods of time, such that cars and trucks are forced to turn around, go miles out of the way just to get moving toward their destinations while a train blocks the tracks. I cannot imagine what would happen if train travel is increased by threefold!

I work in Barrington, and here again I see the impact would be devastating. Families cannot drive anywhere in Barrington without crossing multiple tracks. This is true whether driving to schools, church, shops, hospitals, parks, etc. Daily life is already impacted by the freight trains currently running through Barrington as well as the 50 or so daily METRA LINES connecting Barrington with Chicago. Even now I plan my time driving through town expecting delays because of gates going down for trains. Again I cannot imagine what it would be like if 20 additional freight trains go through downtown. It will bring traffic to gridlock on an hourly basis.

Other towns along the line will be equally impacted. This is not good for the people in these communities, nor for the businesses that support them. School busses and emergency vehicles will be waiting in long, long lines to get across tracks that are blocked by trains. I am all for moving goods across America to keep our free enterprise system alive and growing, but there has to be some thought given to balance the goal of profit against the pace and safety of daily life in these communities that will see their life turned upside down.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments, which represent the thoughts and feelings of my community.

Very truly yours,



Susan Hattas