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Honorable Vernon A Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S W
Washington, D C 20423

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Honorable Secretary Williams,

I am writing you today in concern over docket number FD 35087 Canadian National Railway Company and Grand Truck Corporation – Control- EJ&E West Company

I am a Naperville resident living in the southwest corner of our city, in the Ashwood Creek Subdivision. My neighborhood is very close to the railroad tracks (my home is less than ¼ mile from the tracks). My neighbors and I have many concerns over the Canadian National Railway (CN's) takeover of the EJ&E railroad, as I describe below.

I. NEGATIVE IMPACTS

With the Canadian National (CN) Railway takeover, it is projected that train traffic will increase in our district from 157 to 423 trains per day. On average two trains will be coming through our once quiet neighborhood in Naperville every hour. The number of hazardous material carloads is projected to increase from 434 to 3793 annually. This increased train traffic will have an enormous negative impact on many residential communities in your district.

My specific concerns over CN's acquisition are as follows:

1) SAFETY ISSUES

- a. Increase in train traffic will increase the risk of children injured while crossing tracks – children are drawn to trains and currently there are no physical barriers to retain children from crossing tracks. (Tracks are located less than 500 feet from subdivision border.)
- b. Hazardous materials will be transported on an average of one per day through many residential neighborhoods, including ours.
- c. Hazardous materials will be transported very close to our elementary school (Peterson Elementary School in Naperville, IL), in case of derailment with hazardous loads.
- d. The Sub Power Station just north of Wolf's Crossing is very close to the tracks, in case of derailment.

2) NOISE INCREASE

- a. Noise will increase drastically, impacting everyone's lives at home night and day.
- b. Increased noise will disturb children's sleep at night and interfere with children's attention while in school near by tracks (Peterson Elementary School in Naperville, located less than 500 feet from tracks).

3) TRAFFIC INCREASE

- a. Vehicular traffic will become very congested at many at-grade crossings – specifically where the tracks cross 111th avenue by our subdivision, where many large trucks use this route.
- b. Vehicles could cut through our subdivision (Ashwood Creek) from 111th if they get stuck waiting for a train. This could be dangerous to our kids playing in the neighborhood streets.
- c. Emergency Services Response Time will be delayed to our subdivision.
- d. Traffic on 111th avenue can get congested during our middle school (Crone's) arrival/dismissal.

- 4) Pollution will increase in residential areas
- 5) The planned commuter STAR line will likely no longer be feasible
- 6) Property devaluation due to all of the above

II. REQUESTED MITIGATING SOLUTIONS

- Build a wall to run alongside the rail line, similar to the one to be built in our sister subdivision Ashwood Park – and make it a mandatory condition to the acquisition, to be put in place as soon as possible and prior to the acquisition be in effect
- Establish a Quiet Zone (24 hours a day, seven days a week) – and make it a mandatory condition to the acquisition, to be put in place as soon as possible and prior to the acquisition be in effect
- Establish train traffic patterns to
 - Minimize trains passing during high vehicle traffic hours, minimizing traffic congestion
 - Prohibit trains carrying hazardous materials to pass next to elementary school during school hours

I have moved my family to Naperville because it is considered the best city in Illinois to raise children. Now my husband and I are very concerned that this acquisition will make it very disruptive and unsafe for our three children. I would like my concerns and comments to be considered to minimize the negative impacts of this acquisition to our neighborhood.

Respectfully,


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