



Indian Prairie Parents' Council

•Board of Education Offices • 780 Shoreline Drive, Aurora, IL 60504•
630-375-3000

Indian Prairie
Parents' Council
PTA/PTSAs

February 21, 2008

Elementary Schools

Brookdale
Gwendolyn Brooks
Wayne Builta
Robert Clow
Mary Lou Cowlshaw
Fry
Georgetown
Peter M. Gombert
V. Blanche Graham
Oliver Julian Kendall
Longwood
McCarty
Owen
Patterson
Danielle Joy Peterson
Spring Brook
Reba O. Steck
May Watts
Arlene Welch
White Eagle
Nancy Young

Middle Schools

Clifford W. Crone
Francis Granger
Gordon Gregory
Thayer J. Hill
Thomas G. Scullen
Jeffrey C. Still

High Schools

Neuqua Valley
Waubonsie Valley

Indian Prairie Special Needs
Prairie Children Preschool

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Attention: Phillis Johnson-Ball
Environmental Filing
STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

The Indian Prairie Parents' Council (IPPC) would like to express our opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National Railway (CN). The IPPC is the umbrella organization representing all 31 PTAs and PTSAs in Indian Prairie School District 204, which serves areas of Aurora, Bolingbrook, Naperville, and Plainfield, IL.

The heart of the PTA mission is to be "a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child." We feel that we must speak out against this acquisition due to the safety concerns that would threaten the well-being of our children.

Train traffic is inherently dangerous to children. An increase from 15 to 42 trains a day would greatly magnify this danger. The fact that CN plans to run near track speed – 40 to 45 mph – further exacerbates the danger. The EJ&E tracks run through or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of seventeen of our schools. In addition, there are eight at-grade crossings on this line within our district.

In addition, the proposed increase in hazardous cargo puts our children at risk in the case of an accident or derailment.

Lastly, increased traffic over at-grade crossings hinders the ability of emergency vehicles and personnel to respond to emergency situations.

While Canadian National desires to improve the efficiency of their trains, we ask that you not allow them to jeopardize the well-being and safety of our children to accomplish that goal.

Sincerely,

Legislative Committee
Indian Prairie Parents' Council