

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP]

[Date]

TO:

Federal Railroad Administration

Office of Railroad Safety
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

AND

Canadian National Railway (U.S. Division)

935 de La Gauchetière Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9
U.S. Contact: https://www.cn.ca/en/contact-us/?utm_source=chatgpt.com#

AND

Metra

Right of Way Administrator, Real Estate Department
547 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60661

Subject: Urgent Request for Joint Action on Severe Ground Vibration and Noise Impacts at CN-Metra Rail Crossing in Barrington, Illinois

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of residents and businesses in the Barrington community to urgently request immediate attention and coordinated action from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Canadian National Railway (CN), and Metra regarding the severe noise, ground vibration, and structural impacts occurring at the rail crossing where CN trains intersect with Metra's Union Pacific Northwest Line near CN Crossing #260 515D at IL Route 59 (Hough Street).

For years, our community has endured increasingly extreme vibrations and noise caused by heavy CN freight trains passing through this residential area—often during overnight hours. These trains, which commonly exceed **50 million pounds in total weight**, generate ground shockwaves strong enough to shake homes like an earthquake. Residents report beds rattling, walls vibrating, foundations cracking, and daily life being regularly and repeatedly disrupted.

These impacts go far beyond inconvenience. They affect:

- **Structural Integrity:**

Foundations, walls, porches, and mechanical systems are suffering significant damage. Many homeowners have documented cracks and shifting consistent with vibration-induced stress.

- **Public Health:**

Chronic sleep disruption, stress, anxiety, and fatigue are widespread. Children are unable to sleep, parents struggle to function at work, and families live in constant uncertainty about when the next train will jolt their home.

- **Quality of Life and Property Values:**

Homes that were once places of safety and comfort now feel unstable and unsafe. Some residents no longer invite guests due to embarrassment or fear of disruptive shaking.

No community should be expected to live under these conditions without meaningful relief.

Request for Immediate and Coordinated Action

We respectfully ask the FRA, CN, and Metra to work together to initiate the following actions:

1. **Conduct a Comprehensive Vibration and Noise Impact Study**

A federally overseen assessment is urgently needed to quantify the risks, document the damage, and identify feasible mitigation strategies. For more details see:

<https://cadhcr.com/projects/>

2. **Implement Near-Term Operational Mitigation**

- Speed reductions through the crossing to 10-15 mph
- Adjusted scheduling to minimize overnight heavy freight movement
- Improved communication between railroads during meets and crossings

3. **Pursue Track and Infrastructure Improvements**

- Upgraded track support systems (ballast mats, resilient fasteners, floating slabs)
- Subgrade reinforcement to reduce vibration transmission
- Continuous Welded Rail and joint impact reduction measures

4. **Develop a Long-Term Joint Mitigation Plan**

Including consideration of grade separation (flyover or underpass) to eliminate the geometric conflict that creates extreme vibration at this diamond crossing.

Our Community Needs Your Leadership

This is a multi-railroad issue that cannot be solved by one party alone. Only through coordinated leadership—FRA oversight, CN operational adjustments, and Metra infrastructure partnership—can our community finally receive the relief it desperately needs.

We urge you to treat this as the serious public safety and quality-of-life issue that it is. We stand ready to provide additional documentation, resident testimonies, vibration data, photographs, or structural reports to support this request.

Thank you for your immediate attention. We hope you will join us in restoring safety, stability, and peace to our community.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

On behalf of: Citizens Against Destruction of Their Homes by Canadian Railways –
<https://cadher.com/>