



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Residents Sound Alarm Over Dangerous Noise and Vibration at CN–Metra Rail Crossing in Barrington, Illinois

**Barrington, IL — [Date]** — Residents and business owners in Barrington are calling urgent attention to the severe noise, ground vibration, and structural damage originating from the **rail-to-rail intersection where Canadian National Railway (CN) crosses Metra's Union Pacific Northwest Line**. Community members report that this crossing—located near IL Route 59 (Hough Street)—is the **epicenter** of destructive vibration events felt throughout nearby neighborhoods. When heavy CN freight trains, often exceeding **52 million pounds**, pass through this intersecting-track crossing at high speeds, they generate powerful ground shockwaves that radiate through the surrounding community. Each wheel strike on the steel rail crossing produces a sharp impact that residents describe as “an earthquake-like jolt.”

**Homes and Businesses Shaken Daily** - Residents have documented widespread impacts, including:

- **Shaking of homes**, beds, floors, and walls
- **Rattling of glassware and cabinetry**, sometimes loud enough to wake sleeping families
- **Cracking foundations, damaged walls, weakened porches**, and shifts in structural alignment
- **Sleep disruption**, increased stress, and declining health and well-being

“These vibrations do not stop at the tracks,” said one resident. “They travel outward through the ground, shaking homes and businesses blocks away. We have families who cannot sleep, seniors who fear structural collapse, and property owners facing real and costly damage.”

**A Community at Risk** - Each loaded freight car weighs approximately **286,000 pounds (143 tons)**. With trains averaging **177 cars** and powered by up to **four 415,000-pound locomotives**, the total weight often exceeds **52 million pounds (26,000+ tons)**. As this enormous mass moves across the intersecting tracks—often late at night—it produces intense vibration that residents say is untenable.

Homeowners report that the damage is becoming cumulative, with cracks widening and structures weakening over time. Some residents have already relocated or are considering leaving the community altogether due to the frequency and severity of the disturbances.

**Community Organization Forms to Demand Action** - In response, local residents have formed a community advocacy group dedicated to raising public awareness, seeking regulatory intervention, and pressing for accountability from the responsible rail carriers and agencies. **“Our goal is simple,” the group said in a joint statement. “We want our homes to stop shaking. We want our families to sleep safely. And we want the agencies responsible to take this crisis seriously.”**

The group is calling for:

- A formal vibration and safety assessment by federal regulators
- Speed reductions for freight traffic near the crossing
- Engineering solutions to reduce rail-to-rail impact vibration
- Immediate dialogue with CN, Metra, and the Federal Railroad Administration

**Join the Effort** - Residents, business owners, and supporters are invited to join the movement to protect the stability, safety, and well-being of the community. Together, we are standing up for our homes, our health, and our future.