

Re: Hazardous Freights on the Beltline Railroad,
Parkside Neighborhood, Buffalo, NY

Dear _____:

Residents in the Parkside neighborhood, in Buffalo, NY, are disturbed by the September 13, 2017, Canadian Pacific Beltline Railroad accident that occurred underneath the bridge at the intersection of Main Street and Greenfield Street. We are fortunate that the railroad cars that hit the bridge were empty, because there are many dangerous chemicals transported through our neighborhood every day.

The following chemicals and items have been noted from placard numbers to be contained in boxcars traveling the Beltline Railroad: butane or LPG, ethanol or other alcohols, caustic soda, sulfuric acid, chlorine gas, ferrous chloride solution, diesel fuel or other combustible liquid, and petroleum crude oil.

Our primary concern is for the safety and security of people in the neighborhoods traversed by these trains. We understand that railroad traffic is regulated on the federal level, but we would like to know that all precautions are being taken to ensure public safety. Accordingly, we request your assistance in discovering:

1. A full disclosure of all chemicals passing through Buffalo, specifically on the Beltline Railroad in Parkside, and of the potential dangers to our families and communities;
2. The procedure for inspection and repair of railroad bridges;
3. The procedure for training and equipping firefighters and other first responders in the event of another accident and/or derailment; and
4. The process and timing for informing the public of evacuation plans prior to the occurrence of any additional incidents.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Laurie Ousley and Bruce Wagner
Quality of Life Committee
Parkside Community Association