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082508 Ulmer.txt

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1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 DAVID ULMER
11

12 AUGUST 25, 2008
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14 MATTESON HOLIDAY INN
15 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
16 MATTESON, ILLINOIS
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20 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

21 Telephone: 312-781-9111
22
23

24 REPORTED BY: Robin Chimniak, 084-001999

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1 David Ulmer, U-l-m-e-r. I'm at 226
2 1400 Terrace Trail. That's in Frankfort,
3 Illinois 60423.

4 And I am here to express my
5 opposition to the acquisition of the EJ&E
6 Railroad for several reasons, which are
7 mainly health and safety reasons.
8 As pointed out by several people
9 in the open public forum session, the
10 amount of grade crossings that run across
11 the -- not only Frankfort but the south
12 suburban area makes it difficult to respond
13 in case of an emergency.
14 I'm also -- I also used to live
15 in Matteson and Richton Park, so I'm very
16 familiar with both of these areas. And I
17 know to the east of Frankfort and Matteson,
18 if you go on Main Street, there is a
19 crossing that runs across Main Street, and
20 there is several schools in the area. And
21 there are school buses that travel along
22 that Main Street. And if there is a
23 train -- if there is a backup for two
24 miles, then those kids have no choice.

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1 There is no way around for them to go to
2 get to school.
3 I am also -- I've also had major
4 surgery. I've had heart surgery. So being
5 in Frankfort, I'm on the south portion of
6 town. If there is an emergency, there
7 aren't any hospitals -- the nearest
8 hospital is to the west of me, and I
9 believe that's in Joliet, or to the south

10 of me in Kankakee. And so for me that has
11 a serious effect on me and my ability to
12 receive adequate healthcare.

13 So, again, I want to express my
14 opposition to that.

15 And the last thing I want to
16 talk about, too -- I'm sorry -- is that
17 most of these towns here, they have
18 volunteer fire departments, small fire
19 departments. In the case of Matteson and
20 Richton Park, if there is a fire, let's
21 say, in Richton Park, and they request the
22 services of Matteson, then the main street
23 here at Central, there is a fire station.
24 But if that fire truck gets down Central

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1 and there is a train and that train is two
2 miles, it's naturally going to back up here
3 on Central, and it's going to hit Cicero
4 and possibly Ridgeland. And of course the
5 paramedics, they won't know, or the
6 firemen. They won't know until they get up
7 there.

8 So, again, that's another issue
9 that really needs to be looked at. I think
10 that's it.

11 (End of statement.)

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