

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL  
2 RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE  
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY  
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9 STATEMENT OF:  
10 JOSEPH C. SVETANOFF  
11

12 September 10, 2008  
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14 INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST  
15 3400 BROADWAY  
16 GARY, INDIANA  
17  
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2       afternoon. My name is Joseph C. Svetanoff  
3       and I currently represent the town of  
4       Schererville, Indiana, concerning the  
5       proposed Canadian National EJ&E railway  
6       acquisition.

7               For nearly one year, the local  
8       news media has reported on the potential  
9       acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and  
10      Eastern Railway Company by the Canadian  
11      National Railway Corporation.

12             This acquisition is currently  
13      being reviewed by the United States  
14      government, specifically the Surface  
15      Transportation Board which among other  
16      things is responsible for the approval or  
17      denial of railway acquisitions and mergers.

18             Furthermore, this matter is of  
19      great public importance for the town as it  
20      can impact the quality of life of all  
21      resident citizens. Canadian National filed  
22      its application with the Surface  
23      Transportation Board for approval of the  
24      above-mentioned acquisition on

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1       October 30th, 2007.

2             The Canadian National has  
3       continued to represent to the Surface  
4       Transportation Board that it contemplates

5 through the acquisition that there will be  
6 improved railway operations, more efficient  
7 train movement and a reduction of  
8 congestion with favorable economic and  
9 environmental impact upon Northwest  
10 Indiana.

11 Moreover, the Canadian National  
12 has indicated that there will be no  
13 anticipated adverse safety impact  
14 concerning the potential increase in train  
15 traffic.

16 The town completely disagrees  
17 with the above-mentioned claimed benefits  
18 presented by Canadian National and has  
19 consistently raised the following concerns  
20 regarding this acquisition to the Surface  
21 Transportation Board which are as follows:  
22 The increase in train traffic upon the  
23 safety of the citizens within the town, the  
24 impact in delay upon the transportation

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1 systems specifically concerning our  
2 emergency responders, the increase of noise  
3 and vibration, the increase of air  
4 pollution, the increase in hazardous waste  
5 transport, and the mitigation steps  
6 required of the Canadian National by the  
7 town are namely grade separation at Kennedy

8 Avenue, acquiring a train location  
9 monitoring system for the town and creating  
10 a new quiet zone corridor at the 213th  
11 Street crossing.

12 Furthermore, Schererville town  
13 officials along with their attorneys have  
14 identified definite impacts which will  
15 occur affecting the quality of life of the  
16 town resident citizens based upon the  
17 above-mentioned concerns.

18 Moreover, the town council has  
19 passed two town council resolutions and  
20 collected approximately 6,352 signatures of  
21 citizens in and around the town which have  
22 opposed this acquisition and its negative  
23 effects.

24 Moreover, the town by voicing

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1 its concerns directly to the Canadian  
2 National has has never been approached,  
3 contacted or presented any type of  
4 mutually-acceptable agreement as was  
5 encouraged by the Surface Transportation  
6 Board within the draft environmental impact  
7 study.

8 In closing, the town encourages  
9 the Surface Transportation Board to review  
10 our environmental response tendered to the

11 Surface Transportation Board today.

12 Additionally, the town has  
13 identified numerous affected categories in  
14 which the town and its citizens will be  
15 directly impacted by the proposed  
16 transaction.

17 Accordingly, the town  
18 respectfully requests the Surface  
19 Transportation Board and its affiliated  
20 agencies slash representatives to expand  
21 the scope of the entire analysis of the  
22 above-defined sections of the draft  
23 environmental impact statement and upon  
24 such extended scope analysis assess against

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1 the Canadian National the stated and  
2 specified direct mitigation requirements  
3 and for all costs related thereto.

4 Thank you. And this concludes  
5 my comments for today.

6 (End of statement.)

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