

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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STATEMENT OF:

7

JAMES VOTANEK

8

AUGUST 27, 2008

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BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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616 WEST MAIN STREET

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BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

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MR. VOTANEK: My name is James
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2 VotaneK, and I reside in Deer Park,
3 Illinois, and my big disappointment in this
4 whole process is how Canadian National has
5 been allowed to frame the public debate;
6 that they've been allowed to create a
7 community versus community debate in the
8 public forum, and our elected officials
9 have done nothing but answered their
10 debate, their question.

11 Instead I believe we should be
12 looking at a regional issue. This is not a
13 community-by-community issue. This is not
14 a city-by-city issue. That is a northeast
15 Illinois regional issue, and our governing
16 bodies should be looking at ways to add to
17 our quality of life by protecting the
18 communities that currently exist but also
19 by providing mechanisms to increase
20 commerce.

21 In southern California through a
22 private and public venture put in a rail
23 bypass thereby creating commerce
24 opportunities for remote rural areas. I

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1 have heard none of that. Instead our
2 politicians are simply responding and
3 reacting to what the Canadian National are
4 doing. I don't begrudge the Canadian

5 National anything. They're trying to be
6 good business people, and they're charged
7 with that. But the people that are charged
8 with protecting our best interests, our
9 quality of life, our property values, our
10 safety, our protection and to facilitate
11 commerce are doing nothing but responding
12 to what Canadian National is putting out.
13 This is nothing more than a Band-Aid.

14 I'm in the real estate business.
15 I'm a local real estate broker. Canadian
16 National are currently leasing lines that
17 are currently in use. They acquire the
18 EJ&E. Those lines that they are vacating,
19 the owners of those lines are going to
20 simply bring in new tenants, new rail. It
21 is not going to reduce rail congestion
22 closer in to the city as Canadian National
23 is proposing. It's only going to increase
24 rail traffic. Additionally it's going to

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1 increase road traffic because you're going
2 to have more 18 wheelers having to go to
3 more drop off points to pick up freight.
4 There's a larger, better solution; and our
5 governing bodies, our elected officials,
6 are not looking passed it. And that's my
7 comment.

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(End of statement.)

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