

090908 BRE Michelassi.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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7 STATEMENT OF:
8 TONY MICHELASSI
9 SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
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13 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
14 1201 WEST NEW YORK STREET
15 AURORA, ILLINOIS
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21 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO
22 Telephone: 312.781.9111
23 Reported by: Nicole M. Breytspraak, 084-003835
24

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1 MR. MICHELASSI: My name is Tony
Page 1

2 Michelassi, and I am a candidate for
3 DuPage County Board in District 5, which
4 encompasses the east side of Aurora, the
5 vast majority of the City of Naperville,
6 and the western side of Lisle. It is a
7 section of DuPage County that is going to
8 be dramatically affected by the Elgin,
9 Joliet, and Eola railroad acquisition by
10 Canadian National.

11 Now, emotions run high when a
12 sale like this comes through in a
13 locality such as ours. On one side you
14 see -- on both sides, rather, you see an
15 evasion of responsibility. On the one
16 side you see homeowners who purchased
17 lots near train tracks attempting to
18 avoid responsibility for having purchased
19 lots near train tracks. On the other
20 side you see Canadian National, a large
21 international transportation
22 conglomerate, attempting to avoid
23 responsibility for the impact of its
24 purchase on the locals affected. And the

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1 STB has the unenviable position of trying
2 to find a happy medium between these two
3 extremes.

4 I believe it would be my
Page 2

5 responsibility as candidate for office to
6 also work towards that happy medium. What
7 I have been disappointed by is the lack of
8 this -- of the efforts in this direction on
9 the part of our local officials.

10 I would ask the STB to not only
11 oppose mitigation on Canadian National far
12 above what Canadian National has proposed
13 but also to make it known to local
14 officials that it is their responsibility
15 to provide the public works projects to
16 mitigate this sale to best serve their
17 constituency.

18 You see bridges being built to
19 nowhere in Alaska, but we don't see bridges
20 being built for several hundred thousand
21 people to be used within the City limits of
22 the City of Aurora or the City of
23 Naperville.

24 It is not the duty of our

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1 elected officials to try and oppose the
2 progress of our economy; likewise, it is
3 not the duty of the Surface Transportation
4 Board to oppose that either, but it is also
5 not the duty of either party to simply
6 rubber stamp and endorse such a sale
7 without providing for the ability of

8 business to interact with the community
9 without harming it.

10 I ask the STB to consider these
11 implications as it goes forward in its
12 decision making process and to make it
13 clear that it is not entirely Canadian
14 National's responsibility to mitigate this
15 sale. It is also the responsibility of the
16 elected officials to whom the taxpayers
17 give their hard earned money.

18 (END OF STATEMENT.)

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