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SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

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STATEMENT OF:

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MARY MARGARET OLSON

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AUGUST 27, 2008

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BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

18

616 WEST MAIN STREET

19

BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

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MS. OLSON: The acceleration and
Page 1

2 continuing plans of CN and Grand Trunk
3 Corporation to acquire and operate trains
4 over the EJ&E Railroad in light of the
5 compelling concerns and impact on the
6 many communities effected along the rail
7 line is completely unacceptable. This is
8 taking on an almost "David and Goliath"
9 theme in my opinion and no measure for
10 mitigation created by 20 two-mile long
11 trains should even be further analyzed.

12 The health and safety of our
13 citizens are very much at risk. There
14 have been many citizens concerns
15 expressed: Health and safety issues for
16 children traveling to and from school,
17 emergency response units, environmental
18 issues, economic concerns for future
19 growth and development of our area.
20 However, the most compelling issue is
21 that of the health and safety of our
22 school children.

23 Barrington High School is
24 located 600 feet from the rail lines. Rail

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1 lines cross seven major roads. School
2 buses alone cross the tracks 840 times
3 daily bringing children to and from school.
4 Many students walk to school having to

5 cross tracks or are driven by themselves or
6 family. We must put the safety of our
7 school children and all others in our
8 community above economic gains for Canadian
9 National.

10 Moreover, if an existing company
11 and business in Barrington wanted to
12 increase its business by 400 percent and in
13 order to do so needed to build a high-rise
14 structure in downtown Barrington, I am
15 quite concern it would never pass.
16 Building and zoning codes would simply not
17 allow it in our community or similar
18 communities.

19 How is it possible then that the
20 aggressive business plans of CN, which
21 would so impact negatively many such
22 communities like Barrington are still being
23 considered?

24 We, the community of Barrington,

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1 are certainly the David, if I may use that
2 analogy, and CN is the Goliath. I am
3 urging all who have the powers to act on
4 our behalf to do the right thing and not
5 let this aggressive plan continue. Please,
6 hear our voices before it is too late and
7 stop the trains and save Barrington.

8 (End of statement.)
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