

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 "Alan Murphy"
11

12 September 9, 2008
13

14 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
15 1201 WEST NEW YORK STREET
16 AURORA, ILLINOIS

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1 MR. ALAN MURPHY: A resolution
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2 objecting to the proposed acquisition of
3 the EJ&E West Company by the Canadian
4 National Railway Corporation (Surface
5 Transportation Board - Finance Docket
6 No. 35087.

7 whereas, the Churchill of Wayne
8 Homeowners Association is an Association of
9 Homeowners ("Association") representing the
10 Churchill of Wayne Subdivision and is
11 located with the Village of Wayne; and

12 whereas, on October 30th, 2007,
13 the Canadian Railway Corporation, along
14 with U.S. Subsidiary, Grand Trunk
15 Corporation (collectively called "CN")
16 filed an application with the Federal
17 Surface Transportation Board ("STB")
18 seeking approval to acquire the EJ&E West
19 Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the
20 Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway Company
21 (collectively "EJ&E"); and

22 whereas, the proposed
23 acquisition by CN would involving shifting
24 a significant amount of train traffic that

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1 currently moves over CN's rail lines in the
2 city of Chicago to sections of the EJ&E
3 rail lines west and south of the city of
4 Chicago, including a segment that runs

5 through the village of Wayne; and

6 whereas, the increase in freight
7 train traffic resulting from the proposed
8 acquisition by CN will create adverse
9 impacts on the communities along the EJ&E
10 line, including, but not limited to,
11 increased noise and vehicle traffic delays;
12 and

13 whereas, the projected increased
14 volume of train traffic and rail-related
15 operations will result in more frequent
16 blockage of the at-grade crossing at Smith,
17 Army Trail and Stearns Road will negatively
18 impact emergency vehicle access and result
19 in longer response times for emergency
20 vehicles in that the Smith and Army Trail
21 Road crossings will undoubtedly be blocked
22 simultaneously; and

23 whereas, CN estimates that if
24 the proposed transaction takes place, the

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1 average number of daily trains that run
2 along the segment of the EJ&E rail line
3 that bisect Wayne will increase from 4.4
4 trains to 24.4 trains per day, an increase
5 of 555 percent, that the gross tons of
6 freight per day that run over the segment
7 will increase from 14,397 tons to

184,969 tons per day, an increase of over
1,285 percent and hazardous material
carloads will increase from 21.1 to 265.5
per year, an increase of over 1,258
percent; and

whereas, Smith Road, Army Trail
Road are local highways, and Stearns Road
is a county highway that runs east and west
through or at the edge of the village, and
intersects with the EJ&E rail line that
runs north and south through the village at
at-grade crossings; and

whereas, Smith Road has existing
vehicle traffic levels of 5,300 average
(ADT) which levels are projected to
increase; and

whereas, Army Trail Road has

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existing vehicle traffic levels of 8,100
ADT, which levels are projected to
increase; and

whereas, Stearns Road has
existing vehicle traffic levels of 10,800
ADT, which levels are projected to
increase; and

whereas, the amount of train
traffic will interfere with motoring
public, which includes 2,200 residents of

11 the village of Wayne, those residents who
12 reside in the areas adjacent to or near the
13 EJ&E Rail line, those residents who use
14 Smith Road, Army Trail Road as their
15 primary or only means of east-west travels,
16 such road being within less than one mile
17 of each other, which given such distance
18 means both crossings could be
19 simultaneously blocked by the 8,000-foot
20 length of trains projected by the CN; and
21 whereas, Stearns Road is a major
22 arterial freight which will carry vehicles
23 to and from the Stearns Road Bridge
24 crossing over the Fox River, which bridge

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1 is in the beginning stages of construction,
2 the blocking of which by one train per hour
3 would drastically frustrate years of
4 efforts by the federal and state
5 governments, Kane County, Village of Wayne
6 and its surrounding sister communities to
7 improve traffic flows in the region; and
8 whereas, the projected increase,
9 volume of train traffic and rail-related
10 operations will result in more frequent
11 blockage of the at-grade crossings at
12 Smith, Army Trail and Stearns Road, will
13 negatively the emergency vehicle access and

14 result in longer emergency response times,
15 and that the Smith and Army Trail Road
16 crossings will undoubtedly be blocked
17 simultaneously; and

18 whereas, such increased volume
19 of train traffic will negatively impact bus
20 transportation of the students of the Wayne
21 Elementary School, resulting in increased
22 hazards to students and interfering with
23 school bus routes; and

24 whereas, the proposed

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1 acquisition will have significant secondary
2 and cumulative effects on Wayne and the
3 northwest suburban region in that the
4 planned Metra Suburban Transit Access Route
5 (the "STAR Line") that is proposed to
6 utilize the EJ&E railroad corridor to
7 provide north-south commuter rail service
8 to connect the northwest suburbs to other
9 existing Metra commuter lines will likely
10 be jeopardized and the future opportunity
11 to provide a new dynamic mobility for
12 residents, workers and visitors in the
13 suburban region will likely be lost if the
14 proposed acquisition takes place; and

15 whereas, all the effort toward
16 creating the first commuter line rail in

17 Northeastern Illinois designed specifically
18 to address suburban-to-suburban commutes
19 will likely become a casualty of the
20 proposed CN acquisition, if it takes place.

21 Now, therefore, be it resolved
22 by the president and board of directors of
23 the Churchill of Wayne Homeowners
24 Association, Wayne, Illinois, as follows:

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1 Section 1, that the Association
2 urges the Section of the Environmental
3 Analysis (the "SEA") of the Surface
4 Transportation Board (the "STB") include
5 and examine the issues, concerns and
6 comments set forth in this Resolution for
7 the draft Environmental Impact Statement
8 and final Environmental Impact Statement
9 (collectively the "EIS"), and said comments
10 and concerns be considered and addressed in
11 the EIS, and by the STB.

12 Section 2: The Churchill of
13 Wayne Homeowners Association does hereby
14 formally object to the proposed acquisition
15 of the EJ&E by CN, and urges the Surface
16 Transportation Board to disapprove the
17 proposed transaction based on the negative
18 impact it will have on the village of
19 Wayne, its residents, and the region.

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20 Section 3: That the STB allow
21 not less than 120 days for comments on the
22 draft EIS.

23 (End of Statement.)

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