

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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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 TED OLSEN

11 JANUARY 17, 2008
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13

14 ST. ANDREWS GOLF CLUB

15 3 N 441 ROUTE 59

16 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
17

18
19 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

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23 REPORTED BY: Fran Okrei, 84-1074 HDR
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Surface Transportation Board

CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087

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Cc. Original - Job File

1 MR. OLSEN: My name is Ted Olsen and my
2 address is 115 Clara Street here in West
3 Chicago. We live on Clara Street which is
4 right on the EJ&E line, so one might expect
5 that I would be against this purely for the
6 number of trains because that line is due to
7 go up from 10.75 to 31.6.

8 But we actually were not opposed to,
9 for example, the Star Line discussion that was
10 going on. We were actually pretty supportive
11 of that idea because we thought this would be
12 good for the city, economically. It could
13 actually even help, you know. There's a
14 potential it could actually help our housing
15 price because it would be commuter friendly.

16 But one of the key issues for me is
17 that there's no current funding being
18 discussed for road impact that this will have.
19 The discussion is this will have fewer blocked
20 crossings but even with trains moving smoothly
21 through at the Washington Street juncture --
22 junction, there's a train at that junction one
23 of every three minutes eight hours a day.

24 And that was from a study that they

1 did because they were talking about doing a
2 bridge over -- instead of over Washington
3 Street.

4 So if there's no money being discussed
5 right now for additional road bridges and
6 those kind of things that would ease that kind
7 of congestion, you are talking about already
8 there the traffic there is one-third of the
9 time, I just -- I don't see how this is --
10 it's just going to literally split the city.

11 It basically creates almost an
12 impenetrable wall between one side of the city
13 and the other side of the city, a Berlin wall
14 of train, in fact.

15 So that's my big beef, you know.
16 Number of trains, the back yard gets noisier.
17 Those are concerns, I already feel like I
18 sometimes am on the wrong side of the tracks
19 and this way, it's like I'm really -- I feel
20 like I'm going to be in East Germany over
21 there. Thank you.

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