

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL
2 RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN, JOLIET
3 AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
4 STATEMENT OF:
5 LINDA FISHER
6 AUGUST 28, 2008
7 BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL
8 701 SCHICK ROAD
9 HANOVER PARK, IL 60103
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1 MS. FISHER: It has affected us so
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2 far in that if there's more railroad
3 traffic, it would be a lot more of a hassle
4 to our schedules. I mean, I -- well, I
5 live on McQueen, which is right off of
6 Hawthorn just outside of the city of West
7 Chicago. And we're about a block and a
8 half away from the triple railroad tracks,
9 which doesn't include any Metra, and -- and
10 at least two or three times a day we get
11 blocked by the trains. There's one other
12 way around. We can go west and then a
13 little ways north and a little ways south,
14 but it -- each time it amounts to at least
15 10 or 15 minutes out of our way just to get
16 back to where we would have been before,
17 and sometimes it's more like a half an
18 hour.

19 And the -- our little neighborhood is
20 surrounded by businesses, and I'm afraid
21 that if this was -- went through, we would
22 have lots more train traffic with long --
23 they're already long -- freight trains and
24 -- and that since there's so few people --

1 residents right there, they might not
2 consider building an overpass or an
3 underpass at our -- our part. And -- and
4 the city of west Chicago, I'm sure, can't
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5 do that so -- and DuPage County isn't in
6 very good shape either, I guess. So I'm
7 just concerned that we would be blocked
8 off, and any time we want to go east --
9 Hawthorn's already been under construction
10 for the last year, and it's been very
11 difficult because you really have to go --
12 like I said, you have to go way -- you've
13 got to go west and then north and then back
14 to the same point east that you started
15 from and then farther east wherever you
16 want to go, or you have to go west and then
17 south and then the same way. It takes an
18 extra long time, and -- and that's every
19 time you want to go anywhere, even to the
20 -- the nearest grocery store, which is only
21 a half a mile away. It -- the railroad is
22 right in the middle of it, and it takes
23 half an hour to get there instead of five
24 or 10 minutes at the most.

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1 And then just all the way along the --
2 the line that goes through the suburbs,
3 wheaton and Glen Ellyn and I teach at COD,
4 College of DuPage; and they -- you know, we
5 have to -- from our house we have to cross
6 that railroad track again to get down
7 there, and there's only one underpass at
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8 County Farm Road. So far all the other
9 suburbs haven't got an overpass or an
10 underpass on that -- on that train line yet
11 for the suburbs -- the far west suburbs
12 where we are, anyway. And -- well, there
13 is one overpass -- underpass in Glen Ellyn,
14 too; but that's kind of out of the way.

15 Anyway, I'm just concerned that this
16 is going to be a really big hassle; and
17 even if you did some overpasses and
18 underpasses in the -- as, you know, part of
19 the project, that would be good. But on
20 the other hand, if you did one, you
21 probably wouldn't do it on Hawthorn; and if
22 you did, it would probably -- it would just
23 be another really big hassle like
24 construction on Hawthorn has been so far

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1 already.
2 So -- and I guess, I don't know, it
3 seems to me like Chicago actually has
4 better setup, although their overpasses and
5 underpasses probably need more updating and
6 redoing; but they already have more
7 infrastructure for trains than we do out
8 here in the suburbs, and, you know, it
9 seems like it would be easier just to leave
10 them there and redo some of those there in

11 Chicago.
12 The timing -- you know, but -- and
13 they -- they used to back the coal train up
14 around 5:00 o'clock, too, which was really
15 awful. And they -- they stopped doing
16 that, but now you don't -- you don't know
17 when -- you know, they try to do it at off
18 times, but a lot of times the off times is
19 when you're coming home from the grocery
20 store or something, you know, and -- and
21 there they are backing up the coal train
22 for, you know, 20 minutes to a half an
23 hour, and -- and it's just a long way
24 around. And I'm just concerned that, you

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1 know, our neighborhood would probably get
2 one of the lowest priorities, you know, and
3 so it would become extremely inconvenient
4 for us.

5 And, now, the railroad that's buying
6 it is, what, Canadian Northern, is that it,
7 CN; I think. Isn't that owned by Canada?
8 I don't like the idea of selling stuff to
9 other countries, either, even Canada. I
10 wasn't in agreement with the skyway either,
11 but that's not -- that's nothing to do with
12 this.

13 So anyway, I just hope you take all of
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