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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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9 STATEMENT OF:

10 MANDI RALSON

11 SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
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14 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
15 1201 West New York Street
16 AURORA, ILLINOIS
17
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22 REPORTED BY: Laura E. Locascio, 084-004079
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1 MS. RALSON: Mandi Ralson. 11719
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2 Glenn Circle, Plainfield, 60585. My
3 comments are I am opposed to the proposed
4 transaction taking place for many reasons.

5 First of all, I live just maybe
6 200 feet from the tracks. And so an
7 increase of rail traffic would mean having
8 my windows shut at all times. I have soon
9 to be two young kids.

10 And I'm concerned about the
11 hazardous materials that the trains are
12 going to be carrying and any impending
13 spills that could occur as a result of
14 derailment or human error or something like
15 that.

16 The exhaust from the locomotives
17 is very harmful to my family and to anyone
18 that's living in my neighborhood. And I'm
19 concerned about the effects of the
20 long-term exposure to all the diesel
21 exhaust fumes.

22 I've read a lot of information
23 about CN's safety record, including the
24 house of commons in Canada that says that

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1 CN has no safety regulations.

2 There's also an article here, I
3 think it's CNEWS.COM, I think it is, the
4 Canadian Press, that talks about the many
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5 derailments and the problems with a lot of
6 CN's rail car wheels.

7 Senator Barack Obama, the
8 presidential candidate, is highly opposed
9 to this deal taking place. Another reason
10 why that needs to be opposed.

11 TRAC, the regional answers to
12 Canadian National, I am supporting their 20
13 plus problems that they have with the draft
14 environmental impact statement.

15 And also several members of
16 Congress have written a letter to the
17 acting secretary of the Surface
18 Transportation Board. And I am supporting
19 their comments to Ms. Quinlan made on
20 August 20, 2008.

21 I know that there has been a
22 recent directive that requires engineers to
23 look underneath the railcars for explosive
24 devices. And I am totally against

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1 engineers looking for bombs basically in my
2 backyard.

3 House prices in my area are
4 going to tumble as a result of all this
5 increase in rail traffic. And the market
6 is already horrible. And that's just a
7 huge concern of mine.

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I think that will be it.

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(END OF STATEMENT.)

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