

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE ELGIN,
3 JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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9 STATEMENT OF:
10 ROBERT UKOCKIS
11 AUGUST 25, 2008
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14 HOLIDAY INN
15 500 HOLIDAY PLAZA DRIVE
16 MATTESON, ILLINOIS
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19 CHIMNIAK COURT REPORTING & VIDEO
20 Telephone: (312) 781-9111
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23 REPORTED BY: Rachel F. Gard, CSR, RPR, 084-3324
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1 MR. UKOCKIS: Robert Ukockis, U K O C K I S, from
2 New Lenox. Okay.

3 okay. I have -- When I lived in Chicago
4 Ridge, back in -- I'm trying to think of the years. I
5 think we moved in there around 1976 to 1992. We had a
6 railroad over there, and it blocked three main
7 intersections: Central, 111th, and Ridgeland. And this
8 was at the time when there was no 9/11 attacks or
9 nothing like that. It wasn't as crowded, traffic, all
10 these school buses out and everything. And the trains
11 would come and stop and just block -- sometimes they
12 would block maybe one intersection, maybe three
13 intersections.

14 And the police and the village encouraged the
15 residents to call the police department, you know,
16 nonemergency. And they would call the tower, and they
17 would move the trains, which they did; but they would
18 just take their time. They were supposed to be getting
19 a fine. Whether they did or not, I don't know. But to
20 them, if it was a \$500 fine, it's nothing for the
21 railroad to pay.

22 And there were times when I would leave for
23 work, I would maybe just get to the crossing and the
24 gates would be going down. There were times I would

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1 almost want to go through the gates myself, which would
2 have been wrong, you know. And people were doing that.
3 They were going around and everything. So that's my
4 experience with it.

5 And I don't think what they're telling us over
6 here that they're going to do this and they're going to
7 do that, I believe that once -- if they do get in,

8 they're going to do the same thing. They're going to
9 constantly make it worse for us.

10 And they're going to say call the police and
11 do this and do that, and that ain't helping by the
12 traffic around. There's so much traffic. Route 30 -- I
13 don't know if you're familiar with that area, Route 30
14 is very, very bad. I've been to the meeting for the
15 road improvements over there. That's been five years.
16 They claim there's no money. They had the mayor there,
17 the police department chief, the fire department, and
18 pleading with IDOT to get the roads fixed.

19 If there's ever a bad accident or something
20 with a school bus or something, there's not even
21 shoulders to ride on to get to the accident or disaster
22 or whatever. And I'm thinking it's going to be the same
23 thing. So now they're going to be blocking some
24 intersection. The person has to go all the way around,

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1 and then they're going to start to speed and maybe cause
2 another accident somewhere else down the line. I don't
3 think it's right.

4 And one other thing, maybe I shouldn't be
5 saying it, they're from Canada, I believe, and this is
6 the United States. Why do they want to come through
7 here? And I guess a couple of the politicians from
8 Chicago want them to come over here so it eases up the
9 traffic from Chicago.

10 And one other thing. What are they bringing
11 through here? Who knows? Are they going to bring
12 radioactive material? Are they going to bring garbage?

13 who knows? That's what I would like to express. I
14 guess I pretty much got everything covered. And
15 hopefully it will help. I don't know if I can say it in
16 the three minutes. which is the most important one?
17 But I think I got pretty much covered it. And I'm
18 strictly against it. And hopefully it will work out for
19 us and that they will -- they will consider all of our
20 mayors and everybody and politicians consider this could
21 happen.

22 I mean, it's very, very, very possible that
23 something could happen like this just because the
24 railroad wants to come through our area, and what? Make

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1 money for themselves? We're not getting nothing out of
2 it. I'm not getting anything. I'm getting in danger if
3 I have to wait for the railroad, someone comes speeding
4 by me, if they're late for work and causes me to get in
5 an accident.

6 I believe that's it.

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