

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 ROY PRATT

11 JANUARY 16, 2008

12 ONE GENESIS CENTER

13 GARY, INDIANA
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20 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO

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Surface Transportation Board
CN-EJ&E RRS - FD-35087
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Cc: Criminal Justice

HR

1 MR. PRATT: Roy Pratt, P-r-a-t-t.
2 6624 Birch Place, Gary, Indiana 46403.

3 I am Roy Pratt. I represent the city
4 of Gary on the Gary common council. I came today
5 to give my opposition to the transportation
6 authority -- federal transportation authority's
7 or should I say the Canadian authority trying to
8 purchase EJ&E and to transfer the various tracks
9 from congested Chicago to Gary and Griffith.

10 It is my belief that while if there
11 was a catastrophe in Chicago with hazardous
12 waste, we would -- it would affect a large number
13 of people, however, my objection is that if there
14 was a hazardous spill, Chicago is better equipped
15 to handle that than the city of Gary with less
16 than 100,000 people because Chicago has the
17 resources and hazmat and money from the Home Land
18 Security to settle those problems. So I strongly
19 protest the change of the routes from Chicago to
20 the city of Gary.

21 We also have a large refinery close
22 by. We have the largest steel plant in America
23 in US steel. With a large portion of pollution
24 and with the stalled trains, this would add to

1 the pollution in northwest Indiana and Gary in
2 particular.

3 As a footnote, this has absolutely
4 nothing to do with the changing of the track, but
5 let it be known that I believe the time has come
6 because I am an American that we should not sit
7 or allow the Canadian company to buy one of our
8 major rail carriers.

9 We've sold our toll roads to
10 Australia and other countries. The Japanese are
11 buying up and leading us in terms of the car
12 dealerships which we started.

13 In substance, what I'm saying is it's
14 time and let it start right here in the city of
15 Gary that we take our country back. We can -- if
16 this company has to go out of business, we will
17 have to do like the other small farmers had to
18 do, put their property up for auction after being
19 in the family for hundreds of years and another
20 American industry would come along and improve
21 and also make the farm successful.

22 In other words, the bottom line is
23 let's take America back in the heartland and
24 let's start it here in the city of Gary that we

1 can no longer sell out America. We need to
2 keep -- even though Canada is a good partner with
3 us, it is still Canada and this is America.
4 That's just subnote.

5 I want to go back to the main issue.
6 I'm indifferent about having nuclear waste or all
7 of those taking place in the city of Gary and
8 Griffith. So let's let the rail lines stay as
9 they are. Thank you very much.

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