

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN NATIONAL
2 RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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10 STATEMENT OF:

11 "Alan Murphy"
12

13 September 9, 2008
14

15 WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL
16 1201 WEST NEW YORK STREET
17 AURORA, ILLINOIS

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1 MR. ALAN MURPHY: A resolution
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2 objecting to the proposed acquisition of
3 the EJ&E West Company by the Canadian
4 National Railway Corporation (Surface
5 Transportation Board - Finance Docket
6 No. 35087.

7 whereas, the Lake Eleanor
8 Estates Homeowners Association is an
9 Association of Homeowners ("Association")
10 representing the Lake Eleanor Estates
11 Subdivision and is located with the Village
12 of Wayne; and

13 whereas, on October 30th, 2007,
14 the Canadian Railway Corporation, along
15 with U.S. Subsidiary, Grand Trunk
16 Corporation (collectively called "CN")
17 filed an application with the Federal
18 Surface Transportation Board ("STB")
19 seeking approval to acquire the EJ&E West
20 Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the
21 Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway Company
22 (collectively "EJ&E"); and

23 whereas, the proposed
24 acquisition by CN would involving shifting

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1 a significant amount of train traffic that
2 currently moves over CN's rail lines in the
3 city of Chicago to sections of the EJ&E
4 rail lines west and south of the city of

Chicago, including a segment that runs
through the village of Wayne; and

whereas, the increase in freight
train traffic resulting from the proposed
acquisition by CN will create adverse
impacts on the communities along the EJ&E
line, including, but not limited to,
increased noise and vehicle traffic delays;
and

whereas, the projected increased
volume of train traffic and rail-related
operations will result in more frequent
blockage of the at-grade crossing at Smith,
Army Trail and Stearns Road will negatively
impact emergency vehicle access and result
in longer response times for emergency
vehicles in that the Smith and Army Trail
Road crossings will undoubtedly be blocked
simultaneously; and

whereas, CN estimates that if

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the proposed transaction takes place, the
average number of daily trains that run
along the segment of the EJ&E rail line
that bisect Wayne will increase from 4.4
trains to 24.4 trains per day, an increase
of 555 percent, that the gross tons of
freight per day that run over the segment
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8 will increase from 14,397 tons to
9 184,969 tons per day, an increase of over
10 1,285 percent and hazardous material
11 carloads will increase from 21.1 to 265.5
12 per year, an increase of over 1,258
13 percent; and

14 whereas, Smith Road, Army Trail
15 Road are local highways, and Stearns Road
16 is a county highway that runs east and west
17 through or at the edge of the village, and
18 intersects with the EJ&E rail line that
19 runs north and south through the village at
20 at-grade crossings; and

21 whereas, Smith Road has existing
22 vehicle traffic levels of 5,300 average
23 (ADT) which levels are projected to
24 increase; and

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1 whereas, Army Trail Road has
2 existing vehicle traffic levels of 8,100
3 ADT, which levels are projected to
4 increase; and

5 whereas, Stearns Road has
6 existing vehicle traffic levels of 10,800
7 ADT, which levels are projected to
8 increase; and

9 whereas, the increased amount of
10 train traffic will interfere with motoring

11 public, which includes 2,200 residents of
12 the village of wayne, those residents who
13 reside in the areas adjacent to or near the
14 EJ&E Rail line, those residents who use
15 Smith Road, Army Trail Road as their
16 primary or only means of east-west travels,
17 such road being within less than one mile
18 of each other, which given such distance
19 means both crossings could be
20 simultaneously blocked by the 8,000-foot
21 length of trains projected by the CN; and
22 whereas, Stearns Road is a major
23 arterial freight which will carry vehicles
24 to and from the Stearns Road Bridge

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1 crossing over the Fox River, which bridge
2 is in the beginning stages of construction,
3 the blocking of which by one train per hour
4 would drastically frustrate years of
5 efforts by the federal and state
6 governments, Kane County, Village of Wayne
7 and its surrounding sister communities to
8 improve traffic flows in the region; and
9 whereas, the projected increase,
10 volume of train traffic and rail-related
11 operations will result in more frequent
12 blockage of the at-grade crossings at
13 Smith, Army Trail and Stearns Road, will

14 negatively the emergency vehicle access and
15 result in longer emergency response times,
16 and that the Smith and Army Trail Road
17 crossings will undoubtedly be blocked
18 simultaneously; and

19 whereas, such increased volume
20 of train traffic will negatively impact bus
21 transportation of the students of the Wayne
22 Elementary School, resulting in increased
23 hazards to students and interfering with
24 school bus routes; and

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1 whereas, the proposed
2 acquisition will have significant secondary
3 and cumulative effects on Wayne and the
4 northwest suburban region in that the
5 planned Metra Suburban Transit Access Route
6 (the "STAR Line") that is proposed to
7 utilize the EJ&E railroad corridor to
8 provide north-south commuter rail service
9 to connect the northwest suburbs to other
10 existing Metra commuter lines will likely
11 be jeopardized and the future opportunity
12 to provide a new dynamic mobility for
13 residents, workers and visitors in the
14 suburban region will likely be lost if the
15 proposed acquisition takes place; and

16 whereas, all the effort toward
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17 creating the first commuter line rail in
18 Northeastern Illinois designed specifically
19 to address suburban-to-suburban commutes
20 will likely become a casualty of the
21 proposed CN acquisition, if it takes place.

22 Now, therefore, be it resolved
23 by the president and board of directors of
24 the Lake Eleanor Estates Homeowners

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1 Association, Wayne, Illinois, as follows:

2 Section 1, that the Association
3 urges the Section of the Environmental
4 Analysis (the "SEA") of the Surface
5 Transportation Board (the "STB") include
6 and examine the issues, concerns and
7 comments set forth in this Resolution for
8 the draft Environmental Impact Statement
9 and final Environmental Impact Statement
10 (collectively the "EIS"), and said comments
11 and concerns be considered and addressed in
12 the EIS, and by the STB.

13 Section 2: The Lake Eleanor
14 Estates Homeowners Association does hereby
15 formally object to the proposed acquisition
16 of the EJ&E by CN, and urges the Surface
17 Transportation Board to disapprove the
18 proposed transaction based on the negative
19 impact it will have on the Village of

20 wayne, its residents, and the region.

21 Section 3: That the STB allow
22 not less than 120 days for comments on the
23 draft EIS.

24 Section 4: That the Secretary

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1 is hereby authorized and direct to send a
2 copy of this Resolution to the Village
3 Clerk of the Village of Wayne
4 (End of statement.)

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