

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: Resolution 2008-3,
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2 winfield Township, Objection to the
3 proposed acquisition of the EJ&E West
4 Company by the Canadian National Railway
5 Corporation.

6 whereas, on October 30th, 2007,
7 the Canadian Railway Corporation, along
8 with U.S. Subsidiary, Grand Trunk
9 Corporation (collectively called "CN")
10 filed an application with the Federal
11 Surface Transportation Board ("STB")
12 seeking approval to acquire the EJ&E West
13 Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the
14 Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway Company
15 (collectively "EJ&E"); and

16 whereas, the proposed
17 acquisition by CN would involving shifting
18 a significant amount of train traffic that
19 currently moves over CN's rail lines in the
20 city of Chicago to sections of the EJ&E
21 rail lines west and south of the city of
22 Chicago, including a segment that runs
23 through winfield Township; and

24 whereas, the increase in freight

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1 train traffic resulting from the proposed
2 acquisition by CN will create adverse
3 impacts on the communities along the EJ&E
4 line, including, but not limited to,
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5 increased noise and vehicle traffic delays;
6 and

7 whereas, CN estimates that if
8 the proposed transaction takes place, that
9 the average number of daily trains that run
10 along the segment of the EJ&E rail line
11 that runs through Winfield Township, north
12 of the Union Pacific tracks, will increase
13 from 4.4 trains to 24.4 trains per day, an
14 increase of 555 percent, that the gross
15 tons of freight per day that run over the
16 segment will increase from 14,397 tons to
17 184,969 tons, an increase of over 1,185
18 percent, which would be the greatest of all
19 locations along the EJ&E (Attachment A.2 to
20 CN Submittal to the STB); and

21 whereas, CN estimates that if
22 the proposed transaction takes place, that
23 the average number of daily trains that run
24 along the segment of the EJ&E rail line

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1 that runs through Winfield Township, south
2 of the Union Pacific tracks, will increase
3 from 10.7 to 34.5 trains per day, and that
4 the gross tons of freight per day that run
5 over that segment will increase from 87,162
6 tons to 245,049 tons, an increase of 294
7 percent (Attachment A.2 to CN Submittal to
Page 3

8 the STB); and

9 whereas, CN train lengths will
10 be much longer than current EJ&E train
11 lengths; and.

12 whereas, hazardous materials
13 traffic in Winfield Township, north of the
14 Union Pacific tracks, would increase from
15 the current 21 carloads per year to 265
16 carloads per year, and increase of 1,162
17 percent; and.

18 whereas, hazardous materials
19 traffic on West Chicago south of the Union
20 Pacific tracks, would increase from the
21 current 31 carloads per year to 301
22 carloads per year, an increase of 871
23 percent; and

24 whereas, there are currently

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1 five at-grade crossings along the EJ&E
2 tracks in Winfield Township at Church
3 Street, Ann Street, Washington Street,
4 George Street (pedestrian only) and
5 Hawthorne Lane; and

6 whereas, the projected increased
7 volume of train traffic and rail-related
8 operations would result in more frequent
9 blockage of the at-grade crossings in
10 Winfield Township and will negatively

11 impact emergency vehicle access and result
12 in longer emergency response time; and.

13 whereas, West Chicago Community
14 High School is located one block from an
15 at-grade crossing at Ann Street, a school
16 that has a current student population of
17 2,160; and

18 whereas, traffic congestion
19 along the high school is already very
20 heavy, both during the morning and peak
21 hours and when school lets out in the
22 afternoon, a problem that will be
23 exaggerated by the increased train traffic
24 on the EJ&E tracks; and

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1 whereas, approximately
2 35 percent of the community high school
3 student population walks to school, with
4 the highest percentage living west of the
5 EJ&E tracks; and

6 whereas, these students
7 currently need to cross the EJ&E tracks at
8 either Ann Street, Church Street,
9 Washington Street or George Street; and

10 whereas, the exorbitant increase
11 in train traffic on the EJ&E tracks will
12 significantly increase the likelihood of an
13 accident between trains and students; and

14 whereas, the proposed
15 acquisition will have significant secondary
16 and cumulative effects on Winfield Township
17 and the northwest and west suburban region
18 in that the planned Metra Suburban Transit
19 Access Route (the "STAR Line") that
20 proposes to utilize the EJ&E Railroad
21 corridor to provide north-south commuter
22 rail service to connect the northwest
23 suburbs to other existing Metra commuter
24 lines will likely be jeopardized and the

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1 future opportunity to provide a new dynamic
2 mobility for residents, workers and
3 visitors in the suburban region will likely
4 be lost if the proposed acquisition takes
5 place; and

6 Now, therefore, be it resolved
7 by the board of trustees of Winfield
8 Township as follows:

9 Section 1: The Winfield
10 Township Board of Trustees asks that the
11 Section of the Environmental Analysis (the
12 "SEA") of the Surface Transportation Board
13 (the "STB") include and incorporate the
14 issues, concerns and comments of the
15 District set forth in this resolution in
16 the scope of the study for the draft of the

17 Environmental Impact Study and final
18 Environmental Impact Study (collectively
19 the "EIS") and that said comments and
20 concerns be considered and addressed in the
21 EIS and the STB.

22 Section 2: The winfield
23 Township Board of Trustees does hereby
24 formally object to the proposed acquisition

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1 of the EJ&E by CN, and urges the Surface
2 Transportation Board to disapprove of the
3 proposed interaction based on the negative
4 impact it will have on the winfield
5 Township, its residents, its business
6 customers and the region.

7 Section 3: The Various
8 provisions of this Resolution are to be
9 considered as severable, and if any portion
10 of this Resolution shall be held invalid by
11 any Court of competent jurisdiction, such
12 decision shall not affect the validity of
13 the remaining provisions of this
14 Resolution.

15 Section 4: All prior
16 Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or
17 inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly
18 repealed only to the extent of such
19 conflict or inconsistency.

20 Section 5: This Resolution
21 shall be in full force and effect upon its
22 passage and approval.

23 Be it further resolved that the
24 Winfield Township Clerk be directed to

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1 transmit copies of this Resolution to U.S.
2 Senator Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Dick
3 Durbin, State Senator Randy Hultgren, and
4 State Representative Mike Fortner.

5 (End of statement.)

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