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1 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 LINDA JOSUPAIT
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 MS. LINDA JOSUPAIT: On the record,
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2 I'm going to start off that I am strongly
3 against the Canadian National proposal, you
4 know, because this is a densely populated
5 suburban area, and when the area was built
6 up we were not built up for the quantity of
7 trains that they are proposing.

8 The increased train traffic is
9 going to cause us -- cause a significant
10 increase in traffic congestion on roads
11 that were not built for that number of
12 trains going by. And in order to fix this
13 problem, somebody has to pay for those
14 railroad crossings to be improved.

15 The amount of money that
16 Canadian National has proposed is
17 laughable. It's probably not enough to fix
18 one crossing, which means that the local
19 residents are going to pay for it through
20 their local, state and federal taxes.

21 I find it offensive that
22 Canadian National can walk in and cost me
23 money so that they can improve their
24 profits. I feel that the Surface

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1 Transportation Board needs to be able to
2 quantify the cost in these different
3 communities for the residents of these
4 communities so that it's clear how much
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5 money we are going to pay for Canadian
6 National to profit in this deal.

7 I think that people should be
8 the most important factor that they're
9 considering, both people's finances, but
10 also the risks to people in that there's
11 going to -- they've even said there's going
12 to be more accidents.

13 That means people are going to
14 die because of this proposal, and I think
15 that can't just be passed, passed off like
16 it's no big deal.

17 There's going to be more delays
18 for the emergency responders, both fire
19 trucks, ambulances, getting to the
20 hospitals that are close to the railroad
21 tracks and even the school buses taking the
22 kids to school.

23 You know, it's -- these things
24 could easily become life and death if an

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1 ambulance can't get to the hospital because
2 they're stopped by a train, especially the
3 trains that stop, blocking the crossing,
4 not just moving through.

5 I'm very concerned about the
6 increase in hazardous waste coming through
7 our communities. Again, this is a farmland

8 these roads are going through. This is a
9 densely populated area, and by their
10 quantities we're talking about seven times
11 more hazardous materials, which means
12 there's going to be spills and there's
13 going to be accidents, and that's a big
14 concern.

15 I also don't see where there's
16 any limits on Canadian National. They say
17 this is going to help ease congestion in
18 other areas but I don't see anything in
19 their proposal that requires them to live
20 up to those projections.

21 They may -- they may very well
22 fill up this line with trains and still use
23 all the trains' capacity on the other lines
24 that supposedly they're going to reduce.

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1 In summary, I am very against this proposal
2 and feel that if it does go through, which
3 I do not believe it should, that Canadian
4 National should pay for all of the
5 mitigation required at the railroad
6 crossings, not the taxpayers, and that the
7 railroad crossing mitigation should be
8 completed before Canadian National is
9 allowed to increase the freight traffic
10 through the communities. Thank you.

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(End of statement.)

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