

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 JONATHAN ROBERTS
11 SEPTEMBER 10, 2008
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13

14 INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST
15 3400 BROADWAY
16 GARY, INDIANA
17
18

19 CHIMNIAK COURT REPORTING & VIDEO
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23 REPORTED BY: Rachel F. Gard, CSR, RPR, 084-3324
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1 MR. ROBERTS: Jonathan Roberts, I
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2 represent emergency workers in Northwest
3 Indiana, specifically from Prompt
4 Ambulance, East Chicago EMS and Fire.

5 Simply stated, looking at the
6 current situation of having to deal with
7 hazardous materials passing through the
8 area on rail lines, having had worked in
9 Griffith, Indiana, as an emergency worker
10 and having had experience with incidents
11 between the public, excuse me, between
12 public traffic and the rail lines,
13 especially the EJ&E line already in
14 Griffith, I do not think it's beneficial
15 for the communities of Griffith,
16 Schererville, Dyer, East Chicago, or Gary
17 to have an increased amount of hazardous
18 material traffic by train or an increased
19 number of train cars come through the area.

20 As an emergency worker, I value
21 the ability for citizens to have rapid
22 access to the EMS system; and as it's
23 already set up, it's already overtaxed. By
24 increasing the amount of train traffic

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1 through the area to approximately
2 500 percent of what it is currently, I
3 believe that this is putting the lives of
4 residents of Northwest Indiana in danger

5 where they have no positive benefit to come
6 from this.

7 As a citizen, I don't see how
8 the loss of 300 jobs in an already
9 economically stressed area is going to
10 potentially benefit us at all. I really
11 object to this, and I hope that the STB
12 will not approve this. Thank you.

13 (End of statement.)

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