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**Tom Joseph, Local Government Affairs Director, Illinois Association of Realtors:**

“Tom Joseph, Local Government Affairs Director for the Illinois Assoc. of Realtors speaking on behalf of 2000 realtors in the Will-Grundy region in conjunction with the Three Rivers Assoc. of Realtors.

We are not here at this moment to advocate a yes or a no the this proposed sale but we do acknowledge that this sale potentially can have an uplifting effect throughout the immediate regions when it comes to economic development and growth.

But on the same token the concerns of the quality of life and the impact it could have on the residential community when it comes to important safety issues also must be weighed and cannot be ignored.

Realtors represent buyers and sellers and in doing so are advocates for the property rights!

The South Suburban region and Eastern Will County can see benefits to this potential sale but any sale that potentially increase rail line service must be weighed with public safety.

We call on more dialogue across regional lines with community groups, local stakeholders and municipal and county officials to try to ensure that key quality of life issues are addressed across the proposed use of rail lines.

This region is recognized as a garden of international trade due to interstate, rail, canal, and aviation availability.

When the Illinois Association of Realtors led a recent real estate mission to China this region was touted by Chinese Officials as key.

We encourage more dialogue that centers around the issues of residential and overall public safety in reference to increased rail usage and a specific campaign to upgrade crossings and automobile traffic flow due to this use.

We look to future dialogue with you.”

Illinois Transportation Board

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