

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

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 9 STATEMENT OF:

10 JODI KREFT

11 JANUARY 17, 2008

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 14 ST. ANDREWS GOLF CLUB

15 3 N 441 ROUTE 59

16 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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Surface Transportation Board
 CN-EJ&E EIS - FD-35087
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 FOR

1 MRS. KREFT: My name is Jodi Kreft. I
2 live at 241 Moorehead Drive in Bartlett, very
3 close to the train tracks. I would like to
4 read a letter that comes from the heart about
5 how I feel about this project.

6 My American dream community faces a
7 huge safety threat by the proposed purchase of
8 the EJ&E Railroad by Canadian National's
9 railway. This railroad currently runs very
10 few trains through our community. I believe
11 it is 5.5 per day. It is very few and far
12 between that I even encounter a train when I
13 travel down West Bartlett Road and even when I
14 do, it is never a convenient time for me.

15 I am a mom with very busy children who
16 are very involved in the Bartlett community.
17 These few times I do encounter a train is
18 always when I am driving for a purpose, to get
19 somewhere that is of importance to my family.
20 Do I complain? No, because I realize these
21 things happen.

22 I knew that when I chose to purchase
23 my home. I did know however that there were
24 very few trains that came through and that

1 made it okay. Now with the proposed purchase
2 of this railroad, my entire family's quality
3 of life is in jeopardy, not to mention our
4 financial future.

5 My first point is we recently
6 supported the referendum in favor of building
7 a new fire department. We will be paying more
8 taxes because of this. That was okay because
9 the safety of my family is of more importance
10 and having a fire department closer to our
11 home reassured us in case of an emergency the
12 response time would be faster.

13 Is there a chance of a train blocking
14 the road? Sure, the odds are in our favor
15 with only 5.5 trains per day. With the
16 proposed purchase of CN Railway, we could be
17 in jeopardy of horrible misfortune to many if
18 they run a minimum of 28 freights per day, not
19 to mention carrying hazardous waste frequently
20 throughout our community.

21 That is more than one train per hour
22 and from what I am told, these trains are more
23 than one mile in length. Unless I can
24 effectively plan my emergency around the train

1 schedules, if I am unfortunate enough to have
2 one, I don't see how I am going to benefit now
3 from our new fire station.

4 Who can plan when they will possibly
5 lose their home to a fire or lose a loved one
6 due to stroke or heart attack, drowning or
7 choking?

8 And what about our police department's
9 response time? Same thing. We are left to
10 suffer the consequences because of a business
11 deal concerning inconvenient freight trains
12 and hazardous waste materials.

13 My second point is more a safety
14 concern. I cannot support more hazardous
15 waste being delivered throughout my community.
16 That makes the risk greater that something
17 catastrophic could occur that we could never
18 recover from. A Hazmat spill so close to my
19 home and child's school would affect my
20 family's health, not to mention the
21 inconvenience of uprooting my entire family to
22 go where and at whose cost and for how long?

23 Our health and wallets cannot afford a
24 possible disaster such as this. If this deal

1 goes through, it would also lessen the value
2 of our homes. We have worked very hard to own
3 our home and have a lot of equity. Something
4 like this could ruin our financial future.

5 My family's quality of life would also
6 be impacted in a stressful manner when we have
7 to be waiting for trains when we need to be at
8 the many community activities that my children
9 are involved in. We spend a lot of money and
10 time to be involved in community theater and
11 sports.

12 We believe in enriching our children's
13 lives with these activities because it will
14 help them be well-rounded individuals. If we
15 are constantly delayed when we need to be
16 somewhere, not only is that stressful to
17 ourselves but it also affects others that are
18 involved with us. This may sound trivial to
19 some but it could impact us a great deal.

20 Our village has stated they want to
21 make improvements on West Bartlett Road, one
22 of which is widening the road. They've also
23 stated they want to make this a gateway to the
24 community, even bring some more retail

1 business down to this west end of town. This
2 railway will affect this, as well.

3 We moved from a wonderful city two
4 years ago because our family grew and we
5 needed more living space. We thought we were
6 can choosing a growing, changing community.
7 We have really begun enjoy living here.

8 We were hopeful for improvements and
9 change for the better, not change that we will
10 live to regret for the rest of our lives.

11 Respectfully, Jodi Kreft.

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