

(August 21, 2008) Daily Herald: Congressman, local mayors launch effort to support EJ&E takeover

<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=229247>

A new suburban coalition fronted by Congressman Dan Lipinski today launched efforts in support of the controversial proposal by Canadian National Railway to buy the EJ&E railroad, hoping their voices will drown out other suburban leaders against the plan.

Lipinski, a Western Springs Democrat, joined Des Plaines Mayor Tony Arredia, Buffalo Grove Village President Elliott Hartstein and Acting Wheeling Village President Patrick Horcher at a news conference announcing the new group Solutions to Area Rail Traffic, or START.

"There are a lot of communities ... that will see a significant reduction in rail traffic if the transaction goes through," Lipinski said.

"This proposed purchase will help improve the quality of life in more than 60 communities."

Lipinski stressed that he understands the concerns in other communities that will see a spike in train traffic. Barrington is among the strongest opponents.

"I believe that these issues in these communities should be mitigated in a reasonable manner," he said.

But the congressman didn't provide specifics.