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GLBT Application

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Dear Mr. Navecky and Honorable Mr. Elliot,

I am submitting this letter in response to the proposed GLBT railroad in Kankakee county. I am a general surgeon and the Director of Trauma at St. Mary's Hospital , and have concerns about the impact of the proposed railway and highway thru this community.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has mandated response times to emergencies , both medical and traumatic. First responders , hospital technicians , nursing , and physicians all have to be able to respond to emergencies at both local hospitals in a monitored and timely fashion. This time constraint is considered the "gold standard" of medical care and is a quality indicator used to measure health care outcomes. The emergency , medical and surgical responders live throughout the county and potentially will be delayed in response to emergencies at rail crossings,etc.

Riverside Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital both need to take into consideration advanced additional training associated with potentially catastrophic accidents involving hazardous materials along the freight rails and surrounding communities.Both hospitals are Level 2 centers. Who will bear the increased financial burden of additional training for EMS ,nursing and hospital staff ?

Both hospitals along with all surrounding fire departments and EMS , will need to add additional staff to cover increased emergent call volume during construction of the proposed rail line and interstate.Who will be responsible to absorb this financial burden?

Has the Illinois Department of Public Health been involved in any of the planning stages of this project and has IDPH looked at how this rail line and hazardous freight might impact the health of the citizens in the affected areas?

Safety for the citizens in the affected counties is first and foremost. Preparedness on the part of both hospitals and the entire emergency staff need to be addressed in the event of an incident involving the GLB railroad.

Robert E. Brockman,M.D.,F.A.C.S.