

243670

6159 E 11000 N Rd
Grant Park, IL 60940
Jun 3, 2017

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

June 2, 2017

Part of

Public Record

Attn: Dave Navecky-Docket No FD35952
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr Navecky;

I would like to express my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC rail line project. Docket #35952. I oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal. Some of my concerns are:

I am an 86 year old "sorta retired farmer" in Kankakee County, Sumner Township, Sections 5 & 8 in the location of the proposed GLBT railyard. It would wipe us and our family out. We moved here from CROOK county, Ill to get away from the congestion and development around us where I was living on and farming land that my father and grandfather had farmed since 1870, over 100 years. We had 5 kids including 2 high school aged boys. We felt we would be out in the country forever. So far we have successfully battled 2 proposed garbage dumps, the Peotone Airport and the Illiana Expressway. For now. Now down the tracks comes the GLBT--and Frank Patton -- the Worst Yet.

Frank Patton stated at the May 2, 2016 meeting in Morris Ill that he wanted to build a Legacy for his children and grandchildren. But at the loss of the Legacy that we and many of our neighbors have been working hard for--We for 42 years -- many of our neighbors and families over a 100 years. Our 2 sons are farming here full time with hopes that a grandson could join them in the future. The GLBT would put them out of business--all would be destroyed for one selfish dream--a private enterprise. I have been to all 5 of the meetings in this area and find many holes, lies, changes and contradictions in this project. Histories keep changing.

He says the purpose and need is to relieve congestion in Chicago. That is their problem. Don't go 20 to 50 miles away to ruin our lives and pollute our area. I am sure most of the holdups could be relieved by utilizing existing track and facilities in a more efficient way. The EJ&E was built over 80 years ago just south of Chicago Heights, Ill for this very reason. I cross it at least 2 times a week and see very little traffic on it. I invite Frank Patton to come here and see the Legacy we as well as many of our neighbors have built.

He wants to destroy 15,000 acres of good farm ground in our townships. And Pollute the area--Remember No farm --NO FOOD.

There are many house wells and DEEP irrigation wells --yes 400' plus just in this 15,00 acre yard area. No doubt an easy path for diesel and other polluting chemicals to get into the water aquifers over a large area. There are at least 2 cemeteries and one church. Moving them would disturb and pollute a large area and destroying all the homes--a lot of them are older--would no doubt unleash a lot of asbestos. EPA would not be happy about that. Underground tiles both clay and plastic would be destroyed, some are very new. Surface drainage as we have improved it and have it in good condition would be ruined. Surface water with diesel and chemical "stuff" would likely follow the natural flow of the present drainage creeks--some of which were HAND-DUG over 100 years ago. They still do a good job. Would GLBT last that long?? Farms in the same family for 100 to 150 years would be destroyed--along with their families and livelihood. Do they go on welfare?? Remember NO-FARM**NO FOOD. Schools would be badly hurt--especially the Grant Park District. We not in that one. School bus routes would be much longer due to closed roads--More pollution and wear and tear on the busses and much longer time spent on the busses---even very young kids. More costs to run the busses. More danger accidents etc. It would take emergency vehicles much longer to respond. Are they equipped to handle all the various spills?? Diesels fumes from 50 to 100 trains a day--bad for people AND livestock. How would farmers get to fields that have been chopped up by the rail?? A 1 mile trip on present roads would turn into 10 or more miles. More time would need to be spent traveling with large slow-moving machinery. More exposure to careless drivers--believe me I have seen a lot of it. They seldom use common sense. More need to use the busier state highways. More accidents, injuries and deaths. Pattons stories change and have too many holes in them--discrepancies would be a nicer word. Free Electricity?? Who would be left here to use it \$20,000. per acre--or the equivalent--R R stock?? Pay for building at replacement cost--He says nothing on that. Drop in property values--?? He says it would go up. We all know better. Who is behind this project??? STOP IT NOW. Remember--NO FARM NO FOOD. Too many tax dollars have already been wasted--we pay for the STB. Thousands of trees would be destroyed in Sumner township alone. They are nature's natural air purifier.

We have worked for over 40 years here in Kankakee county To build a legacy for our family. This would destroy it all and ruin all our plans for the future--As well as those of many other people. He would build retention ponds for rainwater--I have yet to see one work--but they seem to be good for people to drown in. Why do not any of the other rail-lines support him?? Whose freight would he haul?? to pay off at least an 8 BILLION dollar debt.. He wants to buy farm ground cheap and sell most of it for industrial use. No one can use 15,000 acres for a rail yard. STOP THIS NOW.

And now he proposes more changes. No More ILLIANA expressway--but his own Burnham tollway--using up more farm ground. No more south suburban /Peetone airport--the ILLINOIS airport. This rail would have to go through the Kankakee River State Park. No one else can touch it. it is 'Hallowed Ground'

We local people can see the fallacy of this project--unwanted by the public--unwanted by the other rail lines. A lot of other tracks are already in place. Maybe he should

use some of that money to buy ~~one~~ of them.. He could have
an instant legacy.

Add in the propoosal for the Grant Park Wind Farm--in the
exact same footprint. Frank Patton claims he knows nothing
about this--perhaps another lie.

S T O P H I M N O W

Sincerely

Ralph Paarlberg

P Ralph Paarlberg
6159 E. 11000N Rd.
Grant Park, IL 60940

Ph 708
298-3238