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GLBT Application
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I am writing this message to express my deep and utter objection to the proposed railroad and the announced plan to also build a private toll road next to it. I believe I have a special view on this topic, because I use to live next to a railroad track that also was butted up against a tollway.

I moved away from East Chicago, IN in 2015, the city I grew up in, specifically to escape the train and toll road environment of noise pollution, smell and smog (created by the vehicles and trains), and graffiti(that eventually came to the site of the railroad and tollway)

The noise was so loud that I could not stand in my yard more that 3 feet from another person and have them hear what I was saying without yelling to them. When I complained about the noise, I was told that it was within "Acceptable limits". My response was "Acceptable to whom?, certainly not to me nor my family". But I knew that since the inspectors did not live where we lived they really didn't care. The trains, cars, and trucks would rattle and shake my house every hour of the day and night. The noise would wake my 3 year old daughter up almost every night. The trains and the traffic were a living hell to live by.

The graffiti that popped up around the trains and tollway were a nuisance and eye sore and not suitable for children. At first I complained to the city, then tried to clean it off, then paint them but it was a never ending endeavor.

I guess I was use to the smell that was emanating from the vehicles and trains, I never really noticed how bad it was, until I came back from visiting my brother in the country. Upon my return to my house I noticed the stark difference in the sky as well as in the smell. The sky was drab and dark, from the fumes in the air around my house. The smell was unclean, it was oily, it stunk, and at that point I thought to myself "And I am raising my little girl in this??" At that point I made my decision to move.

I worked ungodly amounts of overtime, saved and sacrificed to come up with money to move from the environment my family and I were in, the environment that I did not want to raise my little girl in. I looked and looked and finally found my dream home, with 5 acres of land in Lowell Indiana. I closed on my new home on November 31 2015, and started moving in that very day. I lived in my dream home for close to a year and a half of pure happiness and bliss, with wide open space, safety and security, happy friendly neighbors, but most of all peace and quiet, and clean fresh air for my daughter.

I was shocked and dismayed when I found out that the application was submitted for the Railway, I could not believe what was happening. I believe in my heart of hearts that the environment that I pulled my family out of will drag down this majestic,

beautiful, and peaceful place we moved to (No one can tell me that it will not, because I lived in it and know it will). The safety and security will go out the window with trains flying by my house at up to 110 trains a day. The peace that we have known for the past year and a half will be shattered by the noise and pollution that comes along with a 24 hour a day operation, like railroads and tollways are. I worked way too hard to move my family only to have that environment follow us to our new life.

I am a proud 43 year old man, I believe in the American way of life and the American dream. I have never begged anybody for anything in my life. But, I am begging you now. Please do not let this application pass. I am not sure if whomever is reading this is a parent, but if you are I would hope you can see it from my perspective. PLEASE vote down this application and let me raise daughter in peace, quiet and security.

Eternally Grateful,

Arthur Cruz

PS. My daughter will soon turn 6 and she wants me to remind you of the impact the railroad will have on the animal life in our area. From the deer and the raccoons to the eagles and fish in the creek, the rail road and tool road will disrupt and permanently change the environment and landscape for the worst.