

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 5, 2017
Part of
Public Record

June 5, 2017

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Great Lakes Basin Transportation LLC Project—Docket No. FD35952

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I am writing in opposition to construction of the Great Lakes Basin Transportation LLC (GLBT) railroad. This proposed 261-mile railroad would travel directly through the middle of my family's 40-acre farm located in Kankakee County, Illinois. If this railroad were allowed, it would negatively impact public safety, the environment, and the local economy. These effects will be felt by me and the surrounding community. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) deny the GLBT's railroad application.

First, I am concerned that the GLBT's application does not adequately address the impact the proposed railroad will have on public safety. The proposed railroad travels through numerous small towns, intersecting roads critical to rural inhabitants. Besides the inconvenience caused by waiting at railroad crossings for trains to pass, the proposed railroad may stop or significantly slow police, fire, and medical vehicles from responding to emergencies.

Additionally, the proposed railroad could have a potentially harmful impact on the environment. Surface and tile water from our farm ultimately drains into a creek to the north. The proposed railroad would destroy drainage tiling and prevent the natural drainage of surface water. As a result, our farmland would become too wet to productively grow corn and soybean crops. Furthermore, I am concerned with the hazardous waste being transported on the proposed railroad and the effect a spill could have on our farmland and the many rivers and creeks the railroad would cross.

Finally, if the railroad were allowed, the value of our farmland, and that of our neighbors, would drastically decline. In addition to the problems caused by excess surface and tile water explained above, the proposed railroad would make our farmland less desirable to future renters or buyers because it splits our farmland in half. The railroad would split our 40-acre farm into two approximately 18.5-acre fields. Many farmers use 16 to 24-row equipment that is unsuitable for farmland of that size. Moreover, it will take our farmland tenants more than twice the amount of time to deliver their harvested grain to the grain bins if the primary route is blocked by the railroad. This would increase fuel and employment costs, and make

our farmland less valuable. Certainly my neighbors will experience the same if the railroad were constructed.

I am deeply saddened that the farmland my parents worked so hard to preserve for me and my children is threatened by the GLBT's proposed railroad. It often feels like the interests of private investors and companies are given more weight than the interests of citizens whose private property is being taken. In this case, I sincerely hope that the STB considers the adverse impact the railroad would have on farmland owners and the surrounding community and deny the GLBT's application.

Sincerely,

Roy Schultz
8401 Maple Valley Road SE
Rochester, Minnesota 55904
roy.schultz@hotmail.com