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FD 35952

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 27, 2017
Part of
Public Record

TO: Surface Transportation Board

FROM: Carla M. Vassmer

RE: Docket # FD 35952

SUBJECT: Request the Surface Transportation Board Reject the GLBT Application

I am not “fringe” or a “screamer and yeller” as Mr. Frank Patton so “kindly” referred to all the opposition of his GLBT application. As I have stated previously, I oppose the GLBT application as a landowner of property bordering the latest proposed route running through Winnebago County, Illinois.

You have been sent thousands of compelling reasons why you, the STB, should reject the GLBT application.

- What amazes me, and am sure you have noticed. There is been so many errors, omissions, discrepancies in the Patton GLBT application pointed out by the opposition of the GLBT. I worry pointing these out might “help” the GLBT in some way. An example: p. 34 of the application – Douglas deBerg, GLBTs design engineer is not a PE (licensed engineer). *“Only a licensed engineer may prepare, sign and seal and submit engineering plans and drawings to a public authority for approval, or seal engineering work for public and private clients.”* [National Society of Professional Engineers]

An interesting picture of Frank Patton (link referenced) with him standing in-between intersecting railroad tracks with no safety gear on (e.g., hard hat). A career railroad employee talked about this in a recent article – this, shows how little Frank Patton knows about the

railroad business.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-glbt-road-plan-st-0502-20170501-story.html>

I ask you to see the GLBT application as it stands:

- Does not have the required up front funding – This fact alone should be enough to reject this GLBT application
- Ruining the farming livelihoods of so many including Centennial Farms of some the richest farmland soil in the U.S.
- Decreasing land values of agriculture, residential and commercial property across three states which is the largest retirement investment for most of these land and business owners.
- Encroaching on Native American burial mounds, expansive timber and wetland areas
- Two Class I Railroads have said “No” to using the GLBT plus no Class I Railroad has given support of the GLBT

I have quoted Thomas F. McFarland, P.C. opposition petition to reiterate what he stated here. Also, have given the most up-to-date list of local, township, county, and state opposition to the GLBT by state listing.

Please Reject the GLBT Application.

July 10, 2017 Tom McFarland filed a Petition for Rejection of Application in the name of the

opposition groups to the STB.

"As will be shown, there must be evidence at the outset of ability to fully fund a track construction, and of the likelihood that rail carriers and shippers will make use of the rail line. There is no such evidence in the GLBT Application."

"The absence of such evidence, therefore, is fatal to GLBT's Application. That being the case, there is no need nor justification for additional proceedings. The Application should be rejected for failure to have provided essential evidence."

All listed OPPOSE GLBT as of mid-July 2017:

ILLINOIS:

Boone County Agricultural Conservation Easement & Farmland Protection Commission

Boone County Board

Boone County: Belvidere City Council

Boone County: City of Belvidere

Boone County Conservation District

Boone County: Flora Community Grange

Boone County: Leroy Township

Boone County: Pamona Grange

Boone County: Spring Township

Boone County: Village of Capron

Boone/Winnebago: Northern Regional Groundwater Protection Plan'g Committee

Catholic Cemeteries of Rockford

City of Streator

Cook County: Chicago Botanic Garden/Chicago Wilderness

Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways

Cook County Farm Bureau

Davis Junction

Grundy County Board

Grundy County Farm Bureau

Grundy County: Gardner-South Wilmington Township High School Dist 73

Grundy County: Norman Township

Illinois Beef Association

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Farm Bureau

Illinois General Assembly

Illinois State Representative Elgie Sims

Illinois State Representative John Cabello

Illinois State Representative Katie Cloonen

Illinois State Representative Jerry Lee Long

Illinois State Representative Lindsay Parkhurst

Illinois State Representative Brian Stewart

Illinois State Representative David Welter

Illinois State Senator Sue Rezin

Kankakee County Board

Kankakee County: Essex Township Fire Protection District

Kankakee County Farm Bureau

Kankakee County: Grant Park Fire Protection District

Kankakee County: Limestone Township Fire Protection District

Kankakee County: Salina Township Board of Trustees

Kankakee County Soil & Water Conservation District

Kankakee County Republican Central Committee

Kankakee County: Rockville Township Board of Trustees

Kankakee County: Village of Grant Park

LaSalle County: Adams Township

LaSalle County Board

LaSalle County: Earl Township

LaSalle County: Earlville Community School District

LaSalle County Farm Bureau

LaSalle County: Miller Township

LaSalle County: Serena Unit School District #2

LaSalle County: Sheridan Community Fire Protection District

LaSalle County: Village of Sheridan

LaSalle/Grundy: Village of Seneca

Kankakee County: Manteno Fire Protection District

Kankakee County: Manteno Township

Kankakee County: Salina Township Fire Protection District

Kankakee County: Sumner Township Board

Lee County: Alto Township Board

Lee County Board

Lee County: Willow Creek Township Board

Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance

Natural Land Institute

Ogle/DeKalb/Lee Counties: Creston Community Consolidated School District 161

Ogle County Board

Ogle County: Dement Township

Ogle County: Eswood Consolidated School District

Ogle County: Girl Scouts of Illinois

Ogle County: Lee Fire Protection Board

Ogle County: Lynnville-Scott-White Rock Fire Protection District

Ogle County: Monroe Township

Ogle County: Village of Davis Junction

Ogle/Lee County: City of Rochelle

SOAR Illinois - Save Our American Raptors

Sheridan Village - Fox River Lutheran Church

Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter

U.S. Representative Robin Kelly

U.S. Representative Adam Kinzinger

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin

Winnebago County Board

Winnebago County: Boone Farm Bureau

Winnebago County: Seward Township Board of Trustees

Winnebago County: Shirland Township

Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District

Winnebago County: Winnebago Township

INDIANA:

Calumet Astronomical Society

Indiana State Representative Michael Aylesworth

Indiana State Senator Ed Charbonneau

Indiana State Senator Rick Neimeyer

Kankakee River Basin Commission (8 County Board)

Lake County Board of Commissioners

Lake County: Calumet Astronomical Society

Lake County Council

Lake County Drainage Advisory Board

Lake County Drainage Board

Lake County: Indian Trail Grange

Lake County Parks Department

Lake County Plan Commission

Lake County: Purdue University Northwest

Lake County: Range Line Presbyterian Church

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District

Lake County: Town of Lowell

Lake County: Tri-Creek Ambulance Board

Lake County: Tri-Creek School Corporation

Lake County: Cedar Creek Township

Lake County: Eagle Creek Township

Lake County: West Creek Township

LaPorte County Commissioners

LaPorte County: Town of Westville

LaPorte County: Town of Westville Water Department

Porter County Assessor

Porter County Board of Commissioners

Porter County Council

Porter County Dept of Development and Storm Water Mgmt Board

Porter County: Hebron Town Council

Porter County: Kankakee Valley Historical Society

Porter County: Metropolitan School District of Boone Township

Porter County Plan Commission

Porter County Soil & Water Conservation District

WISCONSIN:

Midwest Environmental Advocates

Rock County: Beloit Town Board

Rock County: Bradford Township Board

Rock County Board of Supervisors

Rock County: Clinton Community School District

Rock County: Clinton Town Board

Rock County: Emerald Grove Cemetery Auxiliary

Rock County: Emerald Grove Cemetery Board

Rock County: Emerald Grove Congregational Church

Rock County Farm Bureau

Rock County: Town of Fulton

Rock County: Town of Harmony

Rock County: Town of Johnstown

Rock County: Milton City Council

Rock County: Village of Clinton Board of Trustees

Walworth County: Town of Linn

Walworth County: Town of Sharon

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Wisconsin River Rail Transit

Wisconsin State Grange

Wisconsin State Representative Amy Loudenberg

Wisconsin State Representative Mark Spreitzer

Wisconsin State Senator Janis Ringhand

OTHER:

Bird Conservation Network

CMAP Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Center for Neighborhood Technology

Environmental Law & Policy Center

Attorney Tom McFarland on behalf of the citizens of WI, IL & IN

National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Washington, DC

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Norfolk Southern Railroad (2014 & 2017)

Northern Illinois 4-H Camp Association

Openlands

The Nature Conservancy

The Wetlands Initiative

Union Pacific Railroad (2014 & 2016)