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GLBT opposition

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Prime farm land will be permanently destroyed by this project. Over 24 acres of land per mile will be taken by this project. For 270 miles of railroad, more than 6480 acres will be taken. This in addition to 15,000 acres for the railport

Large fields will be divided into smaller fields which will decrease productivity as well as increase compaction due to more turns needed to farm the land on each side of the tracks.

Farm field compaction will increase due to having to make at least twice as many turns to farm ground that I would have on both sides of the tracks.

Increased time will be needed to farm land I have on both sides of the tracks due to having to make more turns as well as having to cross the tracks, not to mention having to wait for trains to pass--some over a mile long.

Who maintains the unused portion of the railroad easement. I am sure not GLBT. I know this from experience of another railroad that use to run through my home farm property. Thus another added expense becomes my responsibility.

Delays at crossings for farm machinery and equipment negatively affects productivity and production.

Increased use of pesticides and herbicides to maintain unused portions of the easement will be an added expense to me.

Since trains will cross my land that have come through other states, the possibility of new weeds, insects, etc. become a reality that will also be an added expense for me.

With the possibility of spills due to the transport of chemicals and oil surrounding soil will also be impacted due to the inability to contain such spills. More economic hurt for me.

Additional soil compaction during construction will cause economic harm to my operation. It will be impossible for railroad equipment to just stay on its easement during construction.

In Illinois this railroad would cross some of the best land in the state, negatively impacting the economic structure of the communities it passes through or near.

Decreased land values for those properties surrounding the railroad will result in a lower tax base and less real estate taxes.

This project does not benefit any of the states it passes through. It is merely a scheme for a handful of investors to profit while at the same time taking profit and from landowners.

My home farm already has an abandoned railroad running north and south through it. I certainly do not need another railroad abandoned or otherwise running east and west through my home farm.

The noise level from these trains is also something I do not need near my property. I love the peace, tranquility, and serenity of my farm just the way it is.

Not to be critical of Mr. Patton, but a project conceived when you are in the hospital with a brain tumor seems at least questionable.