

June 27, 2017

243933

Ronald Hagenow
428 Mockingbird Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 10, 2017
Part of
Public Record

RE: Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railway Project. Docket # FD-35952

Dear Board Members and Staff:

This letter is in opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railway Project. In reading all the filings and proceedings, I am dismayed that this project is still being considered. If you would take the time to drive around in the proposed area of this rail project, you will see almost uniform opposition to this project. Many organizations such as the Farm Bureau have come out against this project. As far as I can determine no railways have come out in support of this proposal. It appears this is one man's grand solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

By their own admission the project states they will not go through any towns or cities. However what about the many family farms that are impacted? This is not just barren dirt. Our family farm outside Manteno, IL is within the proposed footprint of the proposed railyard. I have the original deed when the State of Illinois was formed deeding the land to the Parker family in 1818. I also have the deed dated 1869 on which the Parker family sold the farm to my great Grandfather John Hagenow. The project is not only destroying our land but destroying our history.

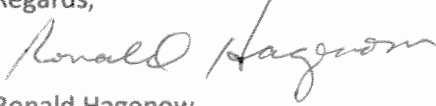
As far as I can determine, if approved, this project has been given eminent domain to take our land. They are not even a government organization! How can they take the land that has been in my family for over 120 years?

I have yet to determine any business or individual who is in support of this project except those on the Great Lakes Basin Transportation board. And I just recently read that their net worth in 2016 is \$151. Huh?

I have written to the Governor of Illinois as well as my Congressman to voice my opposition to this project.

Please do not allow the GLBT to further pursue this project and deny their permission to build this proposed railway.

Regards,


Ronald Hagenow

