

FD 36137

NICKEL PLATE, HAMILTON COUNTY, IN

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Interested parties,

I am vehemently opposed to the plan to railbank the Nickel Plate Line in Fishers and Noblesville (Hamilton County), IN.

The existing operator was both viable and profitable and was denied the opportunity to operate under false pretenses. There is ample proof.

Subsequently, four proposals were submitted to operate on this railway and all four proposals were IGNORED out of hand.

This railway currently represents a valuable link between suburban Indianapolis and the Indiana State Fair and has very realistic potential to be connected to downtown Indianapolis. All four discounted proposals had intentions of completing this connection and operating excursion type trains on a year-round basis.

Local officials have also discounted some 6500 signatures and torrential outcry from local residents who are in opposition to their plan.

In addition to the overwhelming cost of this project and the poor forethought with regards to access and opportunity, I recognize that the idea of railbanking is a ridiculous waste of money and only a way to placate opposition. The rails will NEVER return once removed.

I would encourage the owners to slow down this process and give more serious consideration to the proposals that were made to operate on this valuable corridor and allow for public discussion rather than public instruction, before destroying this asset.

I would encourage the Surface Transportation Board to protect this rail corridor by demanding transparency and commitment from the owners.

I certify that these comments have been provided to the Applicant's Attorney of Record via

email. /S/ Michael D Bowen

Thoughtfully,

Mike Bowen
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