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Surface Transportation Board

Regarding: The Great Lakes Basin
Railroad Project

ATTN: Docket # FA-35952

To Whom IT may Concern

I'm writing this letter to voice my opposition to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project. I am a farmer in Northwest Winnebago County in Northern Illinois. I am 63 years old, farmed my entire life first with my grandfather then my father now on my own.

This line will cross one of my farms run along side of another one and be within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of our main farmstead where my wife and I have lived our entire married life. I can not start to describe how this project will change this area. Not counting my operation, dairy farm next to the tracks will be put out of business because of decreased milk output. Camp grounds will close, no one is coming to camp where a line with trains

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going up to 70 miles a hour is running through it. Their ~~our~~ countless other business that will suffer, a cut your own Christmas Tree business, an apple orchard, the local bed and breakfast. Is Mr. Patton going to compensate these business for their lost earnings. Not at all. I'm sure.

In my own operation Tens of Thousand of dollars are lost. I'm not sure how you would calculate this amount, it would come from increase seed, fertilizer and chemical because fields would not be square anymore. Increase operation time to farm several field instead of once being one. My drainage system where the line is to cross will be destroyed leaving land away from the rail line to suffer and be less productive.

This leads me to my next question, how is it that one man can decide to take another mans property because he's got this great idea one that no other major rail line has an interest in using.

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He doesn't know me he doesn't know the property I worked so hard to acquire. Is it because he's a better man than me I don't think so.

Please put a stop to this project. Improve to rail lines that all ready exist. Improve them so they stay on the tracks any kind of disrailment on this proposed line would destroy this areas natural beauty.

There are so many unanswered questions about this project.

1. Who is really behind it? Who are the investor in this project? We have the right know.

2. How does a project this size with the original price tag of 8 Billion all of a sudden can be done with 2.8 Billion dollars. Does that seem reasonable to you not me.

3. Is There going to be any compensation for the decrease property value of farm land that is crossed by this line. It will surely be less. Home values will drop substantially. Is There any thought about these folks. Their homes will be next to worthless.

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4. How do they plan To protect The sensitive areas it will Travel Through?

Any Type of derailment would be catastrophe for us. That live here.

5. I understand That This is planned on being a Toll rail line. But none of The major rail companies are showing any interest in using it. Who is his customers?

In closing I wish you and your board could see The rural area That we farm in, it natural beauty and peacefulness.

No one and I mean no one, is in favor of This railroad line. IT will change The way we farm and live.

Please consider us in your decision about This project. Please

Thank You

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