

FD 35952

GLBT Application

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ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 24, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Private Citizen

A public necessity review of the Great Lakes Basin project needs to include the educational and social benefits of the project. In this case the project has no educational benefits, in fact it is poised to harm the education of our youth. The line will increase travel times for students, increase the danger of commuting to school as they will have to cross a new train track, and the line will run near many schools, such as the Serena, Illinois school complex. This line will have a further negative impact on the schools as they will need to spend more on fuel for the buses as roads will be closed and buses will be forced to idle more as they wait for the trains to pass, up to one every 15 minutes. Schools will also be forced to carry high liability insurance for their buses as the risk of a bus/train accident increases with each rail crossing. Socially this line will slice communities in half. Shopping and dining patterns will shift as people avoid the tracks, and farm communities will eventually divide based on which side of the tracks you live on. These are tremendous issues for the rural public and they clearly indicate yet another reason why there is no public necessity for the route.