

☒ DISTRICT OFFICE:

5407 NORTH UNIVERSITY STREET
ARBOR HALL, SUITE B
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61614
309/690-7373
FAX: 309/690-7375
EMAIL: reprianspain@gmail.com



RYAN SPAIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 73RD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS · HUMAN SERVICES
BUSINESS INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL COMM.
CITIES & VILLAGES
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH
PUBLIC UTILITIES
TRANSPORTATION: VEHICLES & SAFETY

☐ CAPITOL OFFICE:

228-N STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217/782-8108
FAX: 217/557-3047

FD 35952
243983

July 10, 2017

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 20, 2017
Part of
Public Record

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The Honorable Debra Miller
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Elliot, and Commissioner Miller:

Please consider this my letter of strong opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad project. I, along with numerous constituents in my district, have several concerns about the outcome of this project.

This project will take away prime farmland in Illinois due to the tens of thousands of acres of land needed for the rail line. Illinois is ranked 6th in agricultural production in the country, and the proposed rail line will take at least 20,000 acres of farmland, not to mention the land that will be needed to build rail crossings and flyovers, and to fix drainage issues.

Additionally, there is no commitment on future usage of the railway. Not a single Class I railroad has said that it would use the route; furthermore, Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern expressively stated that they would not. In addition, many railroads own their own rail lines and are unwilling to pay a needless toll for another rail line.

Lastly, this project raises safety concerns. Running trains every 15 minutes will be a safety risk for those who require crossing the tracks. The safety of citizens that will be impacted by this project is of the utmost importance and should not be taken lightly.

Please give every consideration to the denial of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad project application.

Sincerely,


Ryan Spain