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Group/Affiliation: ITM

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Message:

I am a licensed mortgage loan officer having worked in Fishers, Indiana for the last 13 years. In addition I'm a member of Dr. Peter Pry's EMP Task Force on National, Homeland Security which is a Congressional Advisory Board and a 3 time US House of Representatives GOP Candidate IN-7th District (Indianapolis).

The Congressional EMP Commission in 2008 noted vintage diesel locomotives (pre-microchip age 1970's and earlier) can withstand major solar storms and high altitude EMP attacks. Electromotive diesel engines are used to "jumper cable" electrical power into small cities in Canada in the winter time and were sent to Iraq during the Gulf War to bring power back up after our Air Force destroyed much of the Iraqi electrical power generation infrastructure.

NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Space Weather Prediction Center pointed out in July 2012 we had a near miss of a super solar storm which would have taken us back to the 1800's economy knocking out power generation and electric transformers across America. They then revised their projections to state we have a 12% chance of experiencing another Carrington level super solar storm per decade.

Recently the Boston Herald and Fox News have reported North Korea releasing a statement saying their latest bomb, "is a multi-functional thermonuclear nuke with great destructive power which can be detonated even at high altitudes for a super-powerful EMP attack." North Korea and Iran work as partners and have a treaty calling for each nation to mutually share nuclear weapons technology. Currently North Korea and Iran orbit satellites over the continental United States.

If a satellite were to detonate a nuclear explosion at high altitude experts have pointed out it would take out other satellites and we may not know precisely which nation detonated the nuclear EMP blast (North Korea, Iran, Russia, China..?).

As we remember 9-11 it's important to note if terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda or ISIS were to obtain a nuclear tipped scud missile, place it on a tramp trawler and explode at high altitude off our coast they could potentially take down the entire Eastern Grid which Indiana is a part of.

The fragility of our nation's electric grid was demonstrated in 2003 when a tree limb fell on power lines near Akron, OH cascading power outages throughout the northeast effecting 50 million people over 2 days causing 11 deaths.

The Indiana Transportation Museum houses vintage diesel locomotives which would survive any major solar storm or EMP attack and they can be used to help bring electric power back up to the towns of Noblesville and Fishers in the event of blackouts. One vintage diesel unit has the capability to power up +1000 homes.

At least 2 electric power substations are located next to the Nickel Plate railroad tracks one off of 87th Street in Indianapolis and another across the street from the Hamilton County Government Center in Noblesville. Severing (rail banking) the line would prevent running diesel engines to those electric power substations where they could be used to provide emergency power.

I urge these towns to keep the rail line covering the 9.2 miles in question intact and look to blend rails and trails if adding more trails is a high priority.

Florida has many elevated trails such as the Pinellas Park Trails outside Tampa Bay which allows joggers and bikers to take in greater scenic views and allows motorists to drive un-impeded below them. Why not consider elevating parts of the 9.2 miles of the trail over the tracks and run the rest on ground level side by side where possible.

According to Dr. Pry Chief of Staff of the Congressional EMP Commission hardening and having backups for our electric grid is the defense industry of the future. States that engage in protecting their electric grids will be favorably looked at by industry and relocating families.

The Indiana Transportation Museum and the old Nickel Plate rail line now owned by the Hoosier Heritage Port Authority offer a unique backup source to the electric grid and the opportunity exists for the 3 counties represented to help lead our nation in a form of grid security recommended by a US Congressional Commission.

I am actively pursuing measures with the current US Congress to harden our newer (micro-chip based) electromotive diesel engines so as to insure the rail roads of the future will be able to continue to run even after an EMP event. As a matter of national and grid security it's critical we keep our rail lines open.

In terms of a potential mass transit line from Hamilton County to downtown Indianapolis a light rail system would be expensive. However many cities in America continue to run standard gauge commuter rail traffic from their suburbs to their down towns carrying millions of people each day. Keeping the Nickel Plate line open would allow that hope to continue in an era when government regulations and our infrastructure needs are being re-assessed by the Trump administration.

In summary the opportunity for blending rails and trails in Hamilton County along the old Nickel Plate line should not be overlooked as it offers ways for the communities involved

to promote the economy, grid safety, national security, fitness and leisure for the benefit of all citizens provided portions of the rail line are not banked.

Sincerely,

JD Miniear

I certify that I have this day served copies of document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by [U.S. Mail or E-mail].

Signature JD Miniear Date 9-12-17