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"The nation that destroys it's soil, destroys itself" Franklin Delano Roosevelt

5/13/2017

Rachel D. Campbell
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Campbell,

I am writing in opposition to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Line proposed route through Rock County Wisconsin. The proposed railroad route will:

- Desecrate some of the most fertile and productive farmland in the United States causing harm to the local economy and to the future food production for this area, this state, and the country. This country is facing a battle over water shortages and agriculture production dependent on irrigation in areas of the USA. Why should we take out of production forever land ideally suited to food production?
- Delays and impede traffic flow along US Highway 14. This highway is a major traffic route between Northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, often used as a back-up route to Chicago. This is a two lane highway with heavy travel that is already congested and a major gateway to a heavily dependent tourist area. The proposed crossing at Emerald Grove WI will impede traffic flow for both commercial, commuter and tourists.

The current proposed route through Rock County Wisconsin will take at a minimum 575 acres of farmland, a large percentage of which is located on the Rock Prairie (Bradford, LaPrairie, and Johnstown Townships). In the heart of this productive fertile land is a proposed side rail for railroad car parking and layover area the width of a football field and approximately one mile long.

Dr. Frederick Madison, Professor Emeritus, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin in the Janesville Gazette, 2/14/2010, "Farmland Doesn't Get Better Than the Rock Prairie":regarding development of agricultural lands states:

- Similar soils are found in a only a few other places in the world
- The challenge is to recognize the prairie as a precious and irreplaceable natural resource.

- Regarding development: “those are decisions we make. Once they’re gone you don’t bring them back. It’s irreplaceable. With all my years in soil science , I can’t tell you how to re create them”

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to fully investigate the environmental impact to soil, water, and air quality of the proposed location of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Sincerely

Linda M. Viney
3103 Danbury Drive West
Janesville, WI 53546