

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 1, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Dawn Greco
7170 W OMalley Rd
Verona, IL 60479

June 1, 2017

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Docket No FD-35952

I am writing to you to express my total opposition to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad proposal. The negative impact will be felt immediately, as well as for years to come. We moved out to our area for the peace and quiet and space. The proposed railroad would be just over 1 mile from our home. It would cut across multiple roads, causing some to become dead ends. This will cause long drive times to and from work, as well as a simple trip to the grocery store. With the potential for 100+ trains per day, this amounts to 1 train every 15 minutes. The noise, pollution, and train crossing waits will negatively impact daily lives. In the country, when there is an emergency, help is much further away than in more populated areas, and the railroad will add precious minutes, between dead ends and railroad crossings, when a person or situation may not have those minutes to spare. The possibility of a train derailment, which is becoming more common, would be devastating to not only the people and homes, but to the land, which could become forever tainted and unable to be used again in a potentially large area. We have many greenways and waterways around us – the impact by the railroad would be devastating, and further devastating if there were a derailment.

Many of my neighbors are farmers and would have acres and acres of farmland removed from them for the railroad. They would lose this income for the rest of their lives, as well as the generations to come. Our farmland is very important to this country, and taking acres out of production is shortsighted and will cause an economically negative impact. Once used, land can't be taken back - and we certainly can't "get more" as needed. We need to protect the farmland we do have.

Some people's homes have been here for 100 years, or close to it, and they could lose their home or have the train running within a couple hundred feet of their

homes. Property values will plummet. There is no way having a train a few hundred feet from your home will have a positive impact. When we were looking for land to build our home, we specifically checked to see how far railroads were before choosing a site. Sitting on your deck enjoying the countryside and peacefulness will cease to exist.

In all the articles I've read, there does not seem to be a valid reason for a new railroad line, when there are several options currently unused. In addition, at least 2 of the railroad companies have formally written that they will not use a new railroad. Why then, would such a proposal be needed? To leave a legacy, as stated by Frank Patton, is not a valid reason, especially when it ruins thousands of farm legacies.

People live out here for a variety of reasons – whether for farming, or to live in the country, away from the business and noise of the suburbs and cities, no one should have their home and way of life taken away or forever ruined by a private business.

Sincerely,
Dawn Greco