

FD 35952

GLBT Application

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Truetner family is opposing the GLB project because it will totally destroy what we have worked for the last 20 years and it will take our farm totally out of production due to location. We built our place to retire while farming and the railroad will destroy this dream. We also live by the Kankakee State Park and the GLB railroad will destroy that park and what it has to offer. Illinois has very few great state parks unlike other states and now GLB railroad wants to destroy the park.

I am writing this letter to block Great Lake Basin Railroad from coming through. It is going to have only negative effects to those whose property is on or near route. It's going to have negative effects to surrounding areas. It will have environmental effects that can cause great harm. It will affect transportation systems, safety, impact on current land use, recreation, impact on agricultural activities (Biological Resources), water resources, navigation, geology and soils, air quality and climate, noise and vibration, energy resources, socioeconomics, cultural and historic resources, aesthetics, environmental justice, cumulative impacts and loss of income for families.

Illinois does not have many nice State Parks and this area enjoys the Kankakee State Park. The GLB railroad will destroy our State Park. Environmental problems will be lost of a wet land since the tracks go over pond which is a beaver habitat, it will chase newly bald eagles away from area, going over property by river that has many Indian artifacts, in the winter it will cause worse ice build up by bridges which have already been a problem, and cause problems with flow of water into River.

Since our family are farmers in the area I am afraid of how it is going to impact current land use. It is going to permanent destruction of prime farmland (appr. 6,700 acres: 20 per mile for 270 miles), Large fields will be divided in small pieces which will decrease productivity, increase compaction of soils due to shorter rows, farm implements may be too big to use on newly created smaller fields, large amounts of fill are needed to build "fly-over" and bridges, livestock wandering on tracks due to poor or broken fencing, and maintenance of the unused portion of 200 foot wide easement. The GLB railroad will cause problems with weed control and bring in new types of weeds to the area farmers. It is going to affect our field tiles and wells. Environmentally it will cause flow of water which will cause standing water and swamps. Environmentally the train vibration will break down our lime stone/road which will cause the earth to collapse which affects wells and water flow.

Our farm will be affected by GLB railroad for many reasons. The property we have could have been divided into two parcels and with what the train takes up will cause our parcels to be too small which will cause loss of income for us which the GLB railroad will not compensate us for.

Water resources are of great concern anywhere. GLB rail road will cause the natural grade of the land to be altered disrupting the natural flow of surface water, potentially creating artificial ponds/wetlands,

stagnate water will lead to issues with mosquitoes, wildlife, and access to areas, and possible ground water contamination due to spills and/or derailments.

The GLB rail road is not looking at the big picture the want to make money for themselves and take away our livelihoods. I know many who our on the train route including myself say they will move out of Illinois. We are taking about farmers and individuals who pay taxes and bring income to the area. It may bring jobs at first to build the railroad but once it is build it will cause those individuals to be unemployed alone with millions of truckers since the train is going to replace container trucks. I do not see how GLB railroad is going to benefits anyone but those who have invested in GLB railroad. We need to stop this and save our environment. We can not keep taking farm land to accommodate population since the most important thing to sustain life is having land to grow food and having water that not polluted. I had moved out here to get out of a polluted area since it had great effect on my health. It will have great impact on health issues with wildlife and human life. We can not allow the GLB railroad to destroy our environments. Please stop GLB Railroad from ever coming. Save our environment and way of life.