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To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to OPPOSE the rail line proposed by Great Lakes Basin Transportation. Overall my comments are informed by the lack of specific information, freight company participation and outcomes that benefit any party except for the shareholders, who at this time still remain nameless.

While I could recreate the lists of talking points that are circulating as a means to inform and mobilize communities, I do not wish to repeat simply what others have said. I spent ten years in Guatemala working on development projects in education believing that I had the baseline on “good”, especially the “common” one. I was wrong. Why did I have to be stopped by protesters blocking buses on Guatemalan roads to pay attention to my father pounding “No Mowing” signs into the ditch? His is a desperate attempt to honor biodiversity in our rural community. We don’t let the ground rest. We don’t let ourselves rest. Being idle means you’re less, or worse, you’re lost. This project is another example of how it is better to have a destination than to understand why you are going there. Moreover, it seems, the mindset of the investors is unversed in history or they could not be praising themselves as the individuals who named invasion as exploration. The remaining open space, the green space, the “new” space is, in reality, someone else’s backyard.

Rapid pace and large scale production train their own cadre of warriors, causing erosion, pollution and deforestation, permitting semis to plunge across countryside where highway bypasses cut off rural communities. First, they ravage the road itself, and then the road turns upon its sides, until the blacktop sea and choking smoke sweeps across homes and plants alike. Encroachment and pollution were

only whispers at first, but the resistance to the GLB proposal now exemplifies that “success”, “need”, “ownership” and “common good” are not unlocal concepts.

It should be of no surprise, especially with the history of railroad expansion in this country that concepts like professionalism and realism when designating investment based upon community assessed have disappeared. Instead wealthy individuals take it upon themselves to imagine projects for the greater good as long as it is a “good” that they design. This is disrespectful at best, but the way in which Great Lakes Basin offers their “services”, the encroachment upon agricultural land is borderline criminal.

Sincerely,

Erin Conway