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Concerns Regarding Proposed GLB Railroad

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To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad project. Among other things, we are concerned that the proposed project will be detrimental to local economies along the route and will compromise the health and safety of local populations.

One of our biggest concerns is that the Great Lakes Basin project would negatively impact the financial health of the communities along the proposed route. Surely it will be less desirable to live along the route due to noise and safety concerns and property values will fall. By splitting farms and taking land, the local farmers will definitely be impacted financially as well. This will likely in turn lead to decreased revenues for the local businesses and governments - perhaps meaning less vibrant communities with fewer or poorer public services.

Our second concern is regarding the safety of the GLB Railroad. We are not only concerned for the potential for accidents along the route but are also concerned about any potential runoff and spillage along the proposed route. As you may know, many of us rely on well water for our source of drinking and water. With two small children and many more in our community, we are concerned about the potential for contamination of our drinking water. We are also concerned about the potential for contamination of deep water irrigation wells used for farms. We would like to have information regarding how our water would be protected and would like to see a significant fund set aside for any potential remediation that may need to be done in the future.

While these two items represent some of our greatest concerns, we would also like to indicate our skepticism regarding the financial solvency of the GLB backers and their ability to pay for the proposed route and its upkeep. We feel this addition is unnecessary and have some trepidation regarding the fact that it has not been supported by a single Class 1 railroad.

If this were to go through, residents along the route would unfairly share the burden and risks of the proposed route, while the number of direct beneficiaries may be few.

We thank you for your time and for ensuring a fair review of the GLB proposal with regard to all parties.

Sincerely,

Rachel and Patrick Wright