

Docket No FD 35952

Environmental Comment

Mr. Navecky,

I don't believe we can emphasize enough how dangerous the proposed GLBT rail line would be for the people living along the proposed 278 mile road. Schools, homes, farms, people, livestock, water and the wildlife along the route will be in danger every day from this high speed railroad transporting highly volatile and explosive crude oil from Canada and the northwestern states.

The proximity to various schools along the route poses a tremendous risk in numerous ways. One example would be the dangers of children walking to and from school along the tracks.

Example one just in our area is the case of Chloe Burk, age 15 who was killed as she walked home from Hanover Central High School in Cedar Lake, Indiana along the Norfolk and Southern railroad tracks in May of 2012. She was struck and killed because she had was wearing earbuds and didn't hear the train approaching. The train that struck her wasn't traveling at 70 miles per hour but it was deadly because Chloe, like many other teenagers was not as careful as she should have been, but it was still a tragedy.

Another example in March of 2015 along the CSX also in Cedar Lake, 13 year old Jeffery Bellinger was struck and killed by a train as he walked home along the line. He asked his mother's permission since it was such a beautiful spring day. She told him to be careful, but he, like Chloe had earbuds in his ears and didn't hear the approaching train.

The point to all of this is that children will be children no matter what. The lure of the train tracks can be strong and these children love adventure and intrigue. When trains are placed close to schools they create the potential for deadly results. Most trains that exist today near schools are governed by slower speed limits and many don't carry extremely dangerous cargo.

In contrast to that scenario, we have GLBT that wants to knowingly send the most dangerous materials at the highest speeds possible flying past these schools increasing the potential for disaster tenfold.

Noise, vibration and the possibility that one or more of these trains could derail and explode next to these schools alone should prohibit this project from going forward. The derailment, explosion, fire and oil leak that occurred last month in Oregon occurred very close to a school which had to be evacuated. Fortunately the children were not hurt. Only the environment.

Please deny this proposed rail line by GLBT for these and numerous other safety reasons.

Patricia Mussman
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