



HINES FARMS

8650 Rothwell Road Davis Junction, IL 61020
Phone (815) 962-1244
Fax (815) 962-7783



Dear County Board Member:

We are writing this letter to voice our opposition to the Great Lakes Railroad project that is slated to come into Winnebago and Ogle County.

We are landowners and farmers in these areas. We have been taught previously by our farming families before us and most recently by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service that we are to be stewards of the land. According to these governmental agencies, we are to protect wetlands, create filter strips, and be agricultural producers to the best of our abilities and knowledge and to conserve and protect natural resources and habitat. But also according to these agencies, the railroad "has more money" so can get away with their plans to destroy the farmland, homesteads and communities that they choose.

This railroad is projected to sever 4 parcels of land that we currently own and several more that we currently operate. We are also neighbors and friends to numerous other families that are affected by the proposed route. The current map also shows that it heads south, goes east, goes west, goes back east (etc, etc) and barely runs in a straight line at all. Doesn't this present route (back and forth) create a perfect road map for accidents and/or de-rails? It has been suggested that the railroad will create jobs. Probably short term, but we're doubtful that any local residents will benefit from a career with this railroad. And, do we know exactly what this railway is being built to transport? The website suggests freight, but does not put a name on that freight: could it be garbage (like we are already known for in Winnebago County), could it be petroleum products, could it be something harmless or not so harmless? What may this do to the Green Space that we are to be preserving? And if allowed, we will not be financially able to purchase additional smaller equipment that will be necessary to farm the parcels that will be left behind – this definitely makes these uneconomical parcels worthless.

There is a Facebook page in support of blocking the GLB Railroad. It shows that Ogle and Winnebago are two of four counties (at this time) that have not decided against allowing the railroad in their counties. **Why is it taking so long to say no?**

Please reconsider this choice and join the group – we do not need and we do not want the Great Lake Basin railroad in this area – send it to Chicago as their website states:

"Chicago has been made largely by the railroads and its future prosperity is dependent upon them"

Let Chicago have it!


Kim D Kue