

October 26, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Opposition to approval of new GLB Railroad permit

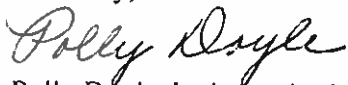
Dear Mr. Navecky,

I seldom take the time to write protest letters and, although, I am not immediately directly impacted by the new proposed Great Lakes Basin (GLB) rail line through Winnebago County Illinois (my farm is located about 2 miles west of Harrison), I am vehemently opposed to its construction due to just the environmental damage alone that it will cause. Anybody that has ever had a Phase I environmental assessment on a property adjacent to a railroad or has had to remediate soil along either an active or abandoned rail line is aware that soil contamination is ubiquitous along every mile of railroad in this country and that the contamination only grows worse the longer the railroad has operated. Soil contamination just due to normal operations (which includes petroleum combustion byproducts--PAHs, wood preservatives/toxic heavy metals, and significant pesticide usage) not even considering the inevitable spills of hazardous materials of all sizes should be reason enough to stop this project. The uppermost bedrock unit in Winnebago County is the Galena-Platteville Formation, which is a fractured dolomite that frequently occurs less than 5 feet from the surface. When the inevitable spill or leak does occur it will directly enter this aquifer and cause irreparable damage, since it is still currently impossible to completely remediate a fractured dolomite. Winnebago County and northern Illinois cannot afford more long-term, ongoing environmental degradation just to speed freight service for the financial gain of a group of billionaires.

The majority of stakeholders in this area do not need or want this rail line in our county/state and I (as well as thousands of others) will not vote for any political candidate that will not proactively work to stop this unnecessary project as they did in Boone County.

I would like to add my voice to the thousands of others asking you to **not** approve the GLB Railroad permit.

Sincerely,



Polly Doyle, hydrogeologist
6152 Eddie Road
Winnebago, Illinois 61088

cc: Tammy Duckworth, Mark S. Kirk, candidates for U.S. Senator
Adam Kinzinger, Candidate for Representative, 16th Congressional District
Dave Syverson, Candidate for State Senator, 35th Legislative District
Angelique Bodine, Joe Sosnowski, Candidates for State Representative, 69th District
John Nelson, Frank Haney, Candidates for Winnebago County Board Chairman
Aaron Booker, Candidate for Winnebago County Board, District 1
Chuck Sweeney, Rockford Register Star



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