

July 6, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railway (GLB) for the various reasons outlined in this document. The proposed GLB is set to run through what was once known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh aka The Everglades of the North until man came through in the name of progress, began draining it and developed it into highly productive farmland. Our property is located in Porter Township in Porter County and will be approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile from the proposed railway route.

RECREATION

The noise and vibration of the trains would make it hard for people who walk, run, and horseback ride and bike the county roads. There are several bicycle routes along the proposed railway. Additionally, the placement of the trains would lead to more accidents involving people using the roads for the aforementioned activities. Nearby residents wanting to enjoy the outdoors or fish in the numerous ponds in the area would be impeded by the interruption of ongoing train noise, whistles and vibrations. Several schools are located near the proposed railway, such as Morgan Township Schools and Boone Grove High School and Middle Schools, outdoor sporting events and extracurricular activities would be hard to conduct with vibrations and noise from up to 110 trains a day.

AESTHETICS

With more than a hundred trains a day, the amount of light pollution in the sky will absolutely increase. If you look at this light pollution map and look at the area where the proposed railway is to run, you can see that the area is not as polluted by light as the more city and urban areas. The railway would become more lighted at night by light pollution making it harder to see the constellations at night among other things.

<http://www.lightpollutionmap.info/#zoom=10&lat=5066315&lon=-9684067&layers=B0TFFFFF>

Many people who live in the rural areas where the proposed railway is to run, chose to live there due to the peace and quiet, bucolic and open views unavailable in a city setting. One of the reasons that we like living in a rural area is because there are no trains. Now, there is a possibility of up to 110 trains a day. This will obviously disrupt the landscape as we know it now, especially if utilities are added as proposed. Basically, it seems that the eventual plan is to make this an industrial area complete with trains, utilities and associated industry. It would not be a surprise if expressways were added to correspond to the trains. If the trains are allowed, it would only make sense if expressways like the proposed Iliana Expressway were brought back from the dead; taking precious farmland, rural peace and tranquility and beautiful views that do not contain trains away from the rightful citizens of America.

The construction of a 278-mile rail line running up to 110 trains a day would absolutely be devastating to the people, animals, communities and natural resources along the line. The decision of allowing the GLB to construct this giant railway would be a mistake that would be nearly impossible to undo. Decisions from more than a century ago forever changed the land; let's not make the go down the same path again.

Sincerely,

Miranda & Richard Serletic

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