

Porter County Soil & Water Conservation District
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"Caring for Porter County's Natural Resources since 1952"
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www.porterco.org (Soil & Water)

June 3, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky,

In 1952 when the Porter County Soil and Water Conservation District was established, drainage issues were a primary focus of the District. Still today, our District, a sub-division of state government, cooperates with other government entities, businesses and individuals at all levels to address concerns.

Upon hearing of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line our immediate reaction was centered on the maze of man-made drainage improvements which lie directly in the planned path of this rail line through Porter County.

Historically a majority of Porter County was part of the Grand Kankakee Marsh. As such, the area has required an immeasurable amount of man made improvements for the ground to be farmed and for homes to be built. Since the lion's share of the tile work was completed by independent minded landowners, no records exist as to their exact location. This is especially apparent in the Morgan and Porter Townships' corridor where literally thousands of miles of tile were installed. The significant disruption to this invisible hodgepodge of tile by the proposed rail line would prove disastrous.

Additionally we have heard from residents expressing their frustration at their inability to find contact information for the operators of the existing rail lines.

Some of their concerns have persisted for years without attention. Quite naturally, bringing another player to this field would only add to their distress.

We appreciate your willingness to review these comments and hope that you will thoughtfully consider them.

Sincerely,

The Porter County Soil & Water Conservation Board of Supervisors

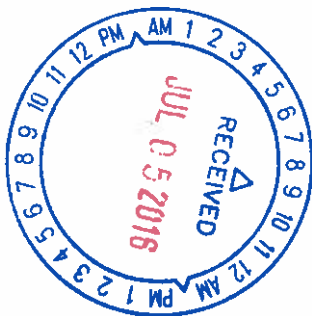
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Porter County Soil and Water Conservation District

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