

November 8, 2016

Mr. David Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street S.W .
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Reference: Docket No. FD35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

My name is Cynthia Campbell from West Rockton, Illinois. I have always been an advocate for trains. When I was younger I worked at a company making parts for Youngstown Steel Door, and watched the demise of railroads, I knew it was a huge mistake.

I will, however, explain why railroad tracks in the Shirland/West Rockton Illinois area is NOT the proper placing.

First let me describe our West Rockton/Shirland area. It is a small area surrounded on three sides by rivers; the Sugar to the West, the Pecatonica to the South, and the Rock to the East. We have only two East/West roads; Shirland/Rockton Road and Yale Bridge Road. Our hospitals are located South. We have one bridge South on Meridian Road and the only other bridge is East, then through Rockton Village to another bridge South. The new proposal is crossing Meridian Road, Shirland/Rockton Road and Yale Bridge Road. Emergency vehicles, including water vehicles will have a difficult time responding in a timely matter.

Following, I have numbered in easy to read, additional reasons why this is not the proper placement of rail lines.

- 1) Our area has many wetlands. Nygren being our largest, 720 plus acres, of restored wetlands, prairies, forests and savannas. People come from all over to see the Sandhill cranes, newly returned river otters, bald eagles, pelicans, badgers, other water fowl and mammals. The Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, a bird banding station is situated in the Colored Sands Forest Preserve. It is one of the largest small bird banding stations in the country that is open to the public. This is just a couple examples of the many exciting recreation areas we have to offer.
- 2) The Whooping Crane is one of two crane species native to North America. They depend on large, open wetland ecosystems. Whooping Cranes were extirpated from the Midwest and are listed as federally endangered. We are very proud to say that every Autumn during their migration South, the Whooping Cranes stop to feed at our wetlands until the first snow.
- 3) High speed railroads versus Birds. Birds are almost incapable of avoiding high speed trains when they approach. It has been observed that birds can barely avoid vehicles moving at higher speeds than 43.5 miles per hour. Many groups of birds including endangered species are vulnerable. Solutions could be speed reduction, placing barriers on both sides of railway that would force the birds to raise their flight path, or underperforming lines should not be constructed.

- 4) Indian mounds in the path of the proposed route. Unlike Wisconsin, Illinois has done a poor job protecting the mounds. We need to save the remaining mounds for history sake, if not for "just the right thing to do".
- 5) We have Williams Tree Farm, Copperstone Inn, The Pavillion in our small area. People from Chicago and all around come to our area to buy their Christmas trees or to get married in the beautiful, quiet country. When the village of Rockton cannot sustain stores in their downtown, these venues bring money to the village of Rockton.
- 6) The lower value of our properties equals less tax money for our schools and the village of Rockton.
- 7) The effect on Farming. Loss of income, land divided, road closures to get to our fields, loss of way on life. Centennial farms, etc., etc. Our land is much more precious than money.
- 8) Any spills would pollute 3 rivers and streams. Our area would be ruined. Our sandy soil would assure the contamination of our drinking water.

I could go on and on, but instead I would like to offer these quotes from visitors of Nygren's wetlands:

"The Nygren Wetland is one of the most spectacular natural resource enhancement programs that I have ever seen in Illinois. The scale of the vision is really exciting. This is a big winner." Dr. Brian Andersen, in his capacity as Conservation 2000 Coordinator for the State of Illinois

"I think Americans from coast to coast are alarmed at the rate were losing prime farmland, wood lots, wetland areas, wildlife habitat. We're talking about the liveability of communities..the sustainability of communities environmentally, culturally, economically. Folks all over the country can learn from what the Natural Land Institute and partners are doing". John F. Turner, president of The Conservation Funds and former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The Nygren Preserve is only one example of how an individual or a small number of individuals can inspire others to pick a cause to preserve habitat for the many creatures we all enjoy. Time is running out as we see more and more development encroaching on these special wild places. It does little good for us to work so hard to restore a species like the whooping crane, if there is no habitat left to sustain it". Walter Sturgeon with Operation Migration, the group re-introducing whooping cranes.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Cynthia Campbell
13999 South Bluff Road
Rockton, IL 61072
campsup@aol.com

Extremely Urgent

This envelope is for use with the following services:

UPS Next Day Air®
UPS Worldwide Express™
UPS 2nd Day Air®

Visit **ups.com®** or call **1-800-PICK-UPS®** (1-800-742-5877) to schedule a pickup or find a drop off location near you

Domestic Shipments

- To qualify for the Letter rate, UPS Express Envelopes may only contain correspondence, urgent documents, and/or electronic media, and must weigh 8 oz. or less. UPS Express Envelopes containing items other than those listed or weighing more than 8 oz. will be billed by weight.

International Shipments

- The UPS Express Envelope may be used only for documents of no commercial value. Certain countries consider electronic media as documents. Visit ups.com/importexport to verify if your shipment is classified as a document.
- To qualify for the Letter rate, the UPS Express Envelope must weigh 8 oz. or less. UPS Express Envelopes weighing more than 8 oz. will be billed by weight.

Note: Express Envelopes are not recommended for shipments of electronic media containing sensitive personal information or breakable items. Do not send cash or cash equivalent.

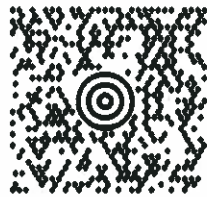
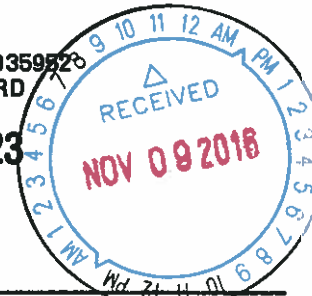
SETH HUFFMAN
(815) 624-2891
CAMPBELL SCIENCE
13947 S BLUFF ROAD
ROCKTON IL 61072

LTR

1 OF 1

SHIP TO:

MR. DAVID NAVECKY, DOCKET#FD359528
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E. STREET S.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20423



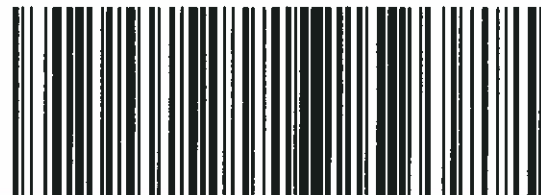
MD 201 9-83



UPS NEXT DAY AIR

TRACKING #: 1Z 4E4 5E1 01 4957 7039

1



BILLING: P/P

Apply shipping documents on this side.

Do not use this envelope for:

UPS Ground
UPS Standard
UPS 3 Day Select®
UPS Worldwide Expedited®