

Dear Mr. Naucke,

I am writing to register my thoughts against the G&B railroad. I could cite facts and statistics, but I'm sure you have read them many times already.

What I want to tell you about is Rock County. This county is stunningly beautiful, quiet and friendly. It's just a wonderful place to live. The thought of an unnecessary train ripping through this county is heart breaking.

Aside from its beauty Rock County has something else that makes it special. It's the land itself. I am quite sure many have written telling you how special it is and I hope you were paying attention. It's not just special, it's fragile. If Mr. Fulton manages to steal the land and build a railway that isn't needed, this land will be destroyed. There will be no fixing it!

I don't know any of the farmers involved in this land grab by Mr.

Patton, but I don't need to. They are citizens of this country and that makes them my neighbors. I have to ask, what about these families? what about the businesses that sell to the farms.

If these farms lose their land that loss will domino across the country. Not one area of the country will be untouched. The result will be financially struggling families.

Speaking of families, some of this land has been farmed by the same family for over 100 years. That is pure commitment to the land. To care properly so that generation after generation can continue to thrive is amazing. No amount of money in exchange for taking their land can compensate for the loss of a families history or future.

Really, who decides what the value of fine generations of work is worth? What do you say to the sixth that won't have the opportunity to follow in mom and dad's footsteps?

No amount of money or jobs that Patton is talking about is worth the ruin this County will experience if the GHB project is given the go ahead.

If the problem is Chicago fix Chicago! Leave Rock County's land where it belongs, in the hands of the farmers. Keep this County stunningly beautiful, quiet and friendly.

Sincerely,

Sharon Sweeney
Rock County Resident
Against The Rail!

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