

ATTN: Dave Navecky – Docket No. FD35952

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I would like to express my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC rail line project, Docket # FD35952. I oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal. I have many concerns regarding the environmental impact upon our community for a project that has not been deemed necessary by the C.R.E.A.T.E. Program.

My greatest concern is the amount of fertile agricultural land that would be taken out of permanent production. The Kankakee County Planning and Zoning Board refused my request to deed a one-acre parcel of land to my brother to build a home, stating that they “do not like to take fertile land out of production.” That was a one-acre parcel; this project would be taking approximately 6,700 acres out of production, which is significantly larger. What happens if this project fails? We will have permanently displaced many farmers and residents for a project that may never come to fruition either through lack of funding or the company backing this venture is not profitable.

As a longtime member of this community, I am also concerned about the numerous environmental issues that a project of this magnitude would affect. The top concern in this area would be drainage and how the pollution from this rail yard will negatively impact our local water tables. We are still a large rural community, which means our ground water (drinking water) would be directly affected. This will also disturb the environmental balance, creating problems for the farmers who are still able to continue with livestock and crop production.

While I understand that on paper this proposal may appear to be a positive project for our community, I feel that we need to closely examine all of the facts. In the end, as an educated citizen, I feel that this project would be more of a detriment to our community rather than a benefit. I thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Koerner
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