

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

December 6, 2016

RE: Docket# 35952
Mr. Navecky,

I'm writing to you to voice my concerns about the Great Lakes Basin Transportation's Railroad proposal. I feel this is an unnecessary project. There is a project called CREATE, which was planned to relieve the congestion in Chicago. I believe this should be given a few years to prove it can work without the threat of a new rail going up. There are so many idle and abandoned tracks we don't need new ones.

My greatest concern is this proposed railroad is about 2 miles from the 3 – school Winnebago School District complex. That's 1000 children. How do we evacuate them in a matter of minutes if there's a train derailment? It's not like this railroad is carrying wheat or corn alone, it's planned to carry hazardous cargo, like crude oil. A few years ago, an ethanol train derailed here and a mother and her unborn child lost their lives, many were injured and burned. Well water was contaminated. That's what my source of water is, well water. Not to mention our aquifers, Sugar River Lower Basin, wetlands, forest preserves will all be impacted. Rail lines carrying oil and other hazardous materials is a disaster waiting to happen. Rain washes out the soil and rock under the rail causing a derailment which means building over marshland is ludicrous.

Also, the railroad will go through Calvary Cemetery, impacting 20,000 graves as well as The Mausoleum. Next concern is all the roads that will be closed or have tracks crossing them – thereby delaying emergency response time for ambulance and fire calls. Winnebago Township is a Volunteer fire Department which already delays response time. Who will train these first responders to fight this type of oil or other toxic chemical fire and pay for the training? Who will pay for the cleanup? Taxpayers? We are not for this but must pay for it, no! Winnebago County has voted to oppose this railroad as well as our Soil and Conservation District. I won't even go into how Eminent Domain used for private gain is so wrong. Please take careful consideration of all our concerns and the great opposition to this Railroad being built.

Thank you
Dawn Powers


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