

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF CRESTON COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 161
OPPOSING THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
OF THE GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION RAIL LINE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Creston Community Consolidated School District 161, DeKalb, Lee, and Ogle Counties, Illinois (the “Board”), has received notification from the federal Surface Transportation Board that Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. is seeking authority to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line that would run through real property located within the territorial boundaries of the School District;

WHEREAS, after reviewing and considering Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.’s proposal, the Board finds that the construction and operation of such a rail line would have a significant negative impact on the School District in the ways set forth below; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the best interests of the School District, its students, staff, parents, and taxpayers require it to oppose Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.’s proposed rail line and submit this Resolution to the Surface Transportation Board as part of that agency’s public comment period relating to the rail line.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

SECTION 1: That the Board has reviewed and considered Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.’s proposal to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line that would run through real property located within the territorial boundaries of the School District, and concluded that such a rail line would likely:

- A. The District continues to operate in an uncertain financial environment, and the lack of knowledge and certainty concerning both the financial impact on property values within the District boundaries and on property tax revenue for the District creates additional uncertainty in an already uncertain environment;
- B. Present significant health and safety risks for the School District’s students and school buses, as those students would be forced to navigate around and through freight train traffic, furthermore, roads may be altered or closed, thereby negatively affecting school bus routes;
- C. Present significant noise disturbances for the School District’s students, staff, parents and taxpayers, as freight trains traffic pass through the community consistently on a daily basis;
- D. Present significant safety risks related to potential chemical spills, freight train derailments, and ground water contamination; and
- E. Increase travel times for the School District’s students, staff, parents, taxpayers, and emergency vehicles as they would be forced to navigate around and through

freight train traffic at various times throughout the day.

SECTION 2: That the President and Secretary of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to sign and serve, or cause to be served, on behalf of the Board, this Resolution on the federal Surface Transportation Board.

SECTION 3: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 14th day of April, 2016, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CRESTON
COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
DISTRICT 161, DEKALB, LEE, AND OGLE
COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**

By:

Brian Lee
President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Miriam Ranken
Secretary