

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 # 35952. I oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal. My concerns are:

the changes in the environment from "farm land" to industrial land." I believe for the future of our country, we need to preserve all the prime farm land as possible. Building a railroad when the present railroads are being under-utilized is not good enough.

My people have been farming in Illinois for 6 generations. We family-farmers are becoming an endangered species, because of projects such as the GLBT and their impact on our environments.

The Illinois Central RR (now abandoned) used to go through our farm. On an icy winter day Jan 11, 1967, my father, Wm. Auchstetter was killed by a train on his land. He survived WWI, but not the railroad he had to share his land. Please deny the GLBT, LLC the "right" to take farmland and another farmer's life in a future train accident.

Respectfully Submitted by Printed name

VERNA AUCHSTETTER Signature Verna Auchstetter

26th St.

(ph#) 815-223-8038 Address

1609th PERU IL 61354

- * There are risk factors associated with a privately funded company taking on this huge project
- * This is not a company with a proven track record building railroads
- * What happens if they run out of money
- * What happens if the company is not profitable
- * Future maintenance issues

13. CULTURAL and HISTORIC RESOURCES

14. AESTHETICS

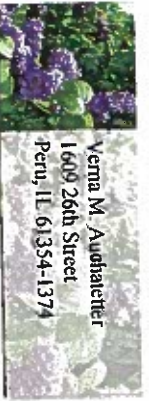
15. ENVIROMENTAL JUSTICE

16. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- * People in this township are living here because of the rural environment. Destroy that and people might be forced to go elsewhere
- * The forever destruction of valuable soils
- * Township roads will be altered or closed - a tremendous inconvenience
- * It degrades the rural nature of the historic countryside

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

- A. One of the main reasons that the Notice of Intent gives as the need for this is the congestion in the Chicago terminal. It says delays "can be up to 30 Hours." This line can decrease this to 8 hours.
- B. This new line merely allows the rail shippers to get their product to their destination quicker which results in more profit for the shipper. Since when can eminent domain (the taking of private property for public use) be used to generate more corporate profits?
- C. Suggest that the terminal allow Google to send in a team to determine how technology can be used to make the terminal more efficient. They are currently developing cars that drive themselves. Google is an organization that has concerns for the environment. They can help save preciously needed farm land and can help preserve the peace and tranquility of the country.
- D. The inefficiencies of the Chicago train terminal should not be solved by creating a problem in the countryside.
- E. The Notice of Intent states that "the Board must approve a construction request unless it finds that the construction is inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity." Convenience and necessity should be stressed in the issues



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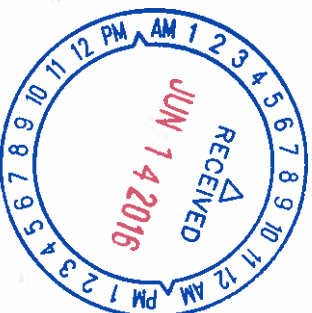
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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

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DOCKET NO FD 35952



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