

8270 Oliver Road
Winnebago, IL 61088
April 21, 2017

Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket #FD35952

Dear Sir:

We are opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad! Please stop this in any way, anywhere!

This railroad will contaminate our water supply which is largely from natural springs. The land here is low and prone to flooding as high as the tops of the fenceposts at times. A railroad through this area will cause more flooding. We are enclosing a picture which shows our local TV weatherman in 2010 on our road which is flooded over a bridge which is ten feet above the land below it.

This railroad will cause the wildlife to have no homes and have to flee elsewhere or even die out. This will totally upset the balance of nature.

This railroad will cut apart very fertile farmland and cause these family farms to go out of business. There will be the inability to secure loans for improvements and higher insurance rates for these farmers and the rest of us landowners. This will cause great hardship for us all. There will be lower crop values because of the rail residue emitted from the constant movement of railcars. The food supply for our nation will be greatly compromised. The noise and fumes will adversely affect all the farm production animals such as dairy, beef and swine.

This railroad will lower property values, which will result in lower tax money to our counties, townships and villages. People who need to sell their homes are already experiencing the inability to do so, because of this proposed railroad.

This railroad will cause the closing of many roads and bring in some very dangerous railroad crossings. This will prevent schools from busing their students in a safe and timely manner. There will be more severe accidents at these hard to navigate crossings. Our emergency services, such as ambulances and fire trucks will be unable to get to us in a timely manner, if at all.

Why do they need all this railroad and the extra footage, for what? Why don't they upgrade the tracks and land that are already in place? We have heard that most of the train companies in Chicago say that it is not needed and they won't use it. If this is so, why is this even in the planning stages?

We are senior citizens who are very concerned because our whole life is in our property. If we lose it and our equity in it, we will have no money to start over somewhere else. We are also concerned for all of our farm neighbors who are also in the path of this railroad. There must be some way to stop this from happening!

Please consider all the dangers and the financial losses this will cause to all of us. Any jobs this railroad will generate will only be temporary and will not help our local economy. Eminent domain cannot possibly make up for the loss of safety and the loss of property and animals that people are depending on for their livelihoods.

Please stop the Great Lakes Basin Railroad and vote:

NO BUILD! NO WAY! NO WHERE!

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Richard G. Koch

Mary Jane Koch



Rockford, IL

h13 Chief meteorologist Eric Sorenson doing live
broadcast on the flooding of West Oliver Road in
Winnebago County Illinois - July 2010

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07/28/10

*Rich & Mary Jane Koels
Spring Run Ridge
8270 Oliver Road
Winchester, VA 61088*

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