

July 7, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky  
Environmental Analysis  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington DC 20423-0001  
Docket No. FD-35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railway (GLB) for the various reasons outlined in this document. The proposed GLB is set to run through what was once known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh aka The Everglades of the North until man came through in the name of progress, began draining it and developed it into highly productive farmland. Our property is located in Porter Township in Porter County and will be approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile from the proposed railway route.

### **ENERGY RESOURCES**

We are concerned with what seems to be the eventual plan to basically, take our rural farmland and communities and make them into industrial brownfields like those in northern Lake County, Indiana, for instance. According to the Great Lakes Basin website, they chose the proposed route: “to by-pass population centers, have the capacity for future growth, support agricultural and industry around the route, avoid attracting more residences or businesses along the railroad that would limit expansion or be exposed in case of an incident.”

The website goes on to explain that the project would be built on 200-foot wide right of way with a designated 50-foot utility corridor, along with access to points of interchange. These would be used by utilities as a new right of way to serve future population growth and put money in the pockets of GLB. Property owners who sell their land to the GLB would be provided free electricity and adjacent property owners would be granted access to the railroad. So, it seems that the electricity would be carried by big overhead power lines along the railway. With gas lines already in place, this would be perfect for Chicago money and industry to turn our farmland and natural areas into industrial areas for big profits.

So, if you connect the dots, you can see that there is a bigger plan than just running a 70 mph train through rural America. It would be the destruction of wildlife habitats and it is the ultimate destruction of productive farmland that helps to feed America and the world.

The construction of a 278-mile rail line running up to 110 trains a day would absolutely be devastating to the people, animals, communities and natural resources along the line. The decision of allowing the GLB to construct this giant railway would be a mistake that would be nearly impossible to undo. Decisions from more than a century ago forever changed the land; let's not go down the same path again.

Sincerely,

*Miranda & Richard Serletic*

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