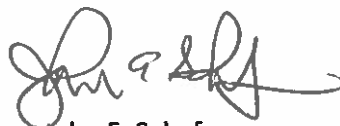


Great Lakes Basin Railroad Proposal

As a Winnebago County resident I am opposed to this project because of the following environmental and practical concerns:

1. Regarding the farmers concerns: every mile of the project represents approximately 24 -25 acres of ground taken from the current owners or approximately 6,300 acres in total. This ground taken cannot be used for farm production and will be lost.
2. The plan means filling in wetlands near rivers and impounding water. Many of our roads will be terminated at the rail line.
3. Some of our farmland floods, and this will slow receding water and delay filed work. Farm fields will be bisected. Homes and buildings will have to be moved. Some of the fields will be too small for present-day equipment to farm.
4. It is my understanding that farm rail crossings will have to be insured yearly by the land owner at a cost of \$2,500 - \$5,000 which is unfair to the farm owners.
5. For those living in cities and villages across the route, derailment of toxic chemicals would cause evacuations and/or contamination of the water supply to many of our citizens. Oil cars contain approximately 30,000 gallons of oil, and a derailment would usually involve more than just one car. Toxic fumes could be emitted from a derailment and ground water would be contaminated for many years after. If a derailment of chlorine gas were to occur, evacuations of five to six miles would be required which could mean an evacuation of Rockford Memorial Hospital.

Please consider all of those problems and the many more that have not been addressed and terminate this proposal.



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