

EI-22976



Docket No. FD 35952

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Regarding the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad:

This would be a private venture, with undisclosed backers. Succeed or fail, taxpayers' money can be used.

As proposed, the route would go through eleven rural counties. As currently planned, it would not follow any highways, current rail routes, or decommissioned railways, but go through prime farmland. This would mean the farmers would have their fields cut, making it fiscally damaging. This is their LIVLIHOOD for supporting their families. There are so many issues with the proposal: the raised rail line causing flooding of the farm fields, killing the crops; the noise and vibration affecting the livestock, resulting in poor production or death; the cost to the farmer to get equipment around the rail line; the blocking of roads, limiting Emergency responders. Bailey Yard covers a total expanse of 2,850 acres and is over 8 miles in length and 2 miles wide. Why would there need to be a yard in Kankakee of fifteen THOUSAND acres?

The professional task force Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program, was created by the Surface Transportation Board with the purpose of facilitating freight travel by rail; another PRIVATE venture is redundant.

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