

ATTN: Docket # FD 35952 June 10, 2016
Mr. Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

I am 87 years old and have lived in Salina Township, Kankakee County IL for my whole life, except the time I served in the Army in Korea. Most of my friends also have lived here in Kankakee County all of their lives. People here work hard on their farms and homes and jobs. We live here and work here because we love the land and we are proud of our communities and our heritage. My parents and my grandparents did the same. Most of my children and grandchildren and my great grandchildren are in Kankakee County. All of them live in Illinois.

I am now legally blind and have not been able to read for myself about the GLB Proposal, but my family has been keeping me informed about the project and I asked them to help me write a letter. I know that the proposed route will split Salina Township in half from east to west. Because I have lived here so long, I know that this will cause drainage problems through the whole township. I was told that Mr Patton said at a public meeting that there would not be any drainage issues. He's wrong. You can't build something 278 mile long and not have drainage and water issues. I'm told that much of the railroad would be built up so that it could go over other railroads and hi-ways. That is basically a dike or levi. Water flow and drainage will be an issue. I was a plumber for 45 years. I know how water flows and drains.

I know that fire departments and police protection already struggle in Kankakee to have enough money to protect everyone. If the railroad carries oil or other hazardous stuff, they will not be able to take care of the people if there is a bad accident. Will they get more money so they can protect my family and friends?

I know that the route is less than ¼ mile from my son's house and less than a mile from my daughter's. They have lived there for more than 30 years. The land that they own and where their houses are was homesteaded by family. It's been in the family since the mid 1800's. The railroad would cause noise, vibration, odor from the diesel engines. It would destroy the nice view they have of open farmland and trees. It would be dangerous crossing the tracks every day. It would cause the farmers problems because of the drainage and because it would split up their fields. It would cause pollution of the soil from engine leakage, from leakage and possible spills from tanker cars. It would cause pollution from weed spray used to maintain the track. It would lower house property values and farmland values. That would affect the whole rest of the community. I don't think there is any need for this railroad. There isn't anything about it that would benefit the place that I have lived my whole life and where my family still lives. You should stop this project.

Also, the railroad would be right over the ground where I went to grade school. The school has been gone a long time and is already turned to farming ground. It's ok with me since it's being farmed. But the idea of it being turned into a railroad make's me mad. The railroad also will pass within a few hundred yards of the cemetery where my Grand dad and lots of other founders of the community are buried. They might have liked the idea of a railroad when they were building the area a hundred years ago, if the railroad would have helped the people. I think now, if they can, they will be mad to see what they worked hard for being divided by a railroad (a toll railroad) that will only divide the community

and will not have any benefit for it. You should stop this project.

I'm not against progress. In 87 years, I have seen lots of it. I know there are more and more people every day. I know that Chicago is creeping farther south all the time. In my life already I have seen thousands of acres of farmland turned into crowded, noisy places. There are still parts of Illinois near Chicago, like Kankakee County where people like to live because it's not that way. People like to come here from Chicago to visit the Kankakee River and enjoy the nature and scenery. I hear that there are already some things going on to fix the crowded railroads in Chicago. You should make that work instead of taking more farmland.

It would be wrong for anyone to make money from taking people's property to build this railroad. It sounds to me like that's what this is all about. I don't think it's any good for my family or the other people here and it just doesn't make any sense, because I don't think there's any proof that another railroad is needed. There has to be a smarter way to fix it if there is, without using up all that farm ground and upsetting people's lives.

Please do the most investigating and studying and be as strict as you can when you decide about this project. I might not be around long enough to know how this all works out, but I hope that you decide not to approve this project.

Thanks for your time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald Mau". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donald M Mau
118 Westwood Oaks Court
Kankakee, Ill 60901