

This is a letter in regards to the proposed GLB Railroad, which is slated to go through an area of our community in Winnebago County, Illinois. STB docket #FD35952.

First and foremost we would like to see the public scoping be reopened for comments as the route has change significantly.

As a long term resident in this area, we realize that sometimes difficult and unpopular decisions need to be made. Saying that, we urge that no railway be built through this community. We also urge that no railway be built at all. The following are our reasons.

1. Concerns regarding environment impact: The sited route of the tracks going through the surrounding farms, is in a permanent wetland easement. The surrounding areas, though not designated as such, have similar soils. Water tables are high in the proposed corridor. Any derailment of hazardous cargo could have huge detrimental effects on the watershed in which we live. All the homes in this are served by well water, if rendered unfit for consumption would create unimaginable hardships for ourselves and the surrounding home owners. Also, this area of the county is part of a non development corridor created by the county's 2030 plan. The siting of a railway in the area is counterproductive to that and would affect habitat, migration, etc. Along with those concerns, the liability for any issues encountered has not been addressed. Per GLB representative's reply taped at a community meeting via YouTube this is an item "yet to be determined". So who would shoulder the burden of any clean up should an event arise, has not been addressed. This areas watershed feeds into metropolitan Rockford, whose residents may also feel the effects.

2. The unidentified treatment of existing roadways: Whether certain roads will be closed and who has the burden of cost on crossings, is not determined. Also, with various road closures access to vital services; ambulances, fire department and police, is diminished, causing hardships in the areas of health, finances, time lost etc. Also effected would be school districts and any municipality operating in the targeted area. Even roadway maintenance would be impacted, adding costs to even the simplest tasks.

3. The soils actual inability to sustain the trains: This area has high water tables and sandy soils. The weight, vibration and liquidity of the soils upon active uses, makes this route financially non viable. There is very little heavy soils in this area as well as those to the north and south. We are not soil scientists but know the farmers who have worked this ground for decades. They have pulled

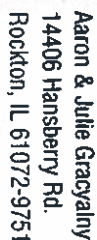
equipment out of what has become virtual quick sand. A true and verifiable environmental impact study would bring many of these issues to light.

4. Lack of transparency of GLB: Non-disclosure agreements mean we have no idea who is actually purchasing the land. The historically disproportionately large amount of land effected in the plan, the lack of ties with existing rail providers, and the fact the GLB is a for profit entity manipulating information for its own end, makes us unable to support the proposal. Burdens to the taxpayers if certain means of funding come into play, are not spelled out and the threat of eminent domain also give us concern. The financial burden to not only land owners, but the community as a whole is noteworthy. Decreased land values and tax revenue, social issues as time and effort is put forth to understand all the aspects of proposed project. The historically beautiful areas of our community would be impacted as air, noise and vibration would be at odds with the peace and tranquility valued in this community.

As more information comes to light, the supposed positives to this project become more questionable. Due process is not being served. Information is not forth coming and neither are hard facts. Replies in early public debate do not hold to be true, as in land values are not increasing. We have already seen some of the effects. These are just a few issues that make this project not a positive thing for the Midwest. We hope you will realize all the issues and not support this project.

Sincerely,

Aaron and Julie Gracyalny



COOL EFFECTS

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Refer to Docket No. FD 35952

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