

I am writing to you in opposition to the proposal on the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Corp. This proposal as I have studied it and testified at the Seneca, IL Hearing, makes no sense and has Not been well thought out or vetted.

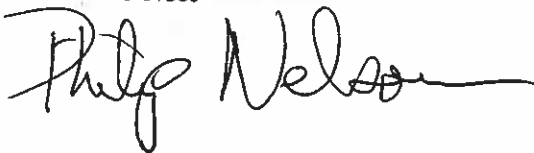
- 1) This proposal cuts through the center of one of our farms and would destroy the waterways and positive environmental conditions that we have worked very diligently to establish through the Soil and Water Conservation District. We have nine years remaining on this contract commitment. It would also destroy tiles which maintain the water flow. If constructed, the track would permanently damage the quality of conservation and ag production on the WHOLE 135 acre property, not just the strip of track that would be carved up. This farm is located along a busy Route 52, which the proposal would cross and cause numerous other complications for traffic, safety, and access.
- 2) The proposed route also cuts off a corner of our home farm. From an environmental standpoint, this would be devastating to the area, as this is the beginning of Nettle Creek. This is a watershed that takes significant water and would be destroyed but a regrading and blocking of the flow. Years of investment of significant tiling and waterways are located in this location, and would make it impossible to farm or maintain the remaining portion.
The property crosses County Line Road just south of Route 52.
- 3) Another farm that this proposal would damage is the Tesdal property in Grundy County owned by Marsha Gordon and Cindy Kohler. They have a CRP contract on a waterway which also carries significant water from Nettle Creek Watershed. A track would cut through the waterway at an angle destroying the tile and waterways.

As you can see, this proposed route would devastate a large part of our farming operation. Generations of our family have spent lifetimes reinvesting income and labor into tiling, building waterways, using minimum tillage applications, and cooperating with governmental conservation organizations, to protect the land as best we can. We are environmentalists and take great pride in our responsibility to the land, and this proposal would destroy a great deal of the investment that we have put into caring for the environment here.

I urge the STB to OPPOSE Mr. Patton's proposal to carve the 1000's of acres of developed prime farmland, and detrimentally impact 1000's of rural communities for a profit venture, of which these communities have nothing to gain but injury.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my thoughts.

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15 JUL 2016 PM 2



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