

To whom it concerns,

I feel I need to contact my representatives and the Surface Transportation Board regarding the Great Lakes Basin rail project #FD-35952.

My family and I have discussed the proposal and the pros and cons of the rail toll as well as talking to neighbors and friends and we are adamantly opposed to such a development in our region.

My major concern is the safety of the community that uses the roadways that will be impacted by the railroad stops created by this project. My children attend Winnebago schools and we drive them to school and pick them up every day. There are a number of school buses that are also active at those times. Inevitably, all of these vehicles will need to cross these rail crossings not just once but many times a day. Can the investors and the GLB Chairman Frank Patton guarantee the safety of my children and the other children of Winnebago school when crossing at the rail crossings? If a tragedy were to occur at a crossing who is held responsible? As far as I know, Mr. Patton has never had any experience whatsoever in the railway business. Therefore he has no safety record and this "for profit" endeavor makes me nervous.

And what of emergency vehicles that need to cross during that critical time that is referred as "the golden hour", the time it takes to be transported to a hospital? Can GLB guarantee the uninterrupted transport of those in need of emergency medical treatment or in life or death situations?

Needless to say we are also concerned about train car derailments at high speed and the contents these cars would transport.

My neighbors and I are concerned with the acquisition of family-owned farmland and imminent domain being used to acquire our property.

None of these concerns have been addressed by Mr. Patton or the proposal.

As I stated before there are more negative aspects to this than positive-except for Mr. Patton and his investors who have nothing to lose with this project:

- no school age children on a school bus crossing several stops a day,
- no water tables, rivers or wetlands to be contaminated by a derailed train cars,
- no neighbors on large slow-moving farm equipment at the mercy of high speed railcars,
- no worries about ambulance access or golden hour times in life & death emergencies,
- no accountability for traffic accidents at rail crossings,
- and more concerns I have that are too numerous to list in this letter.

I urge that my representatives take a public stand against this project and the Surface Transportation Board vote for "No Action" on this proposal.

Sincerely,



The Farr Family
9227 Cemetery Rd
Winnebago, IL 61088

DAVE NAVECKEY
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



20423-0001

