

April 28, 2017

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

I am writing in regard to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad and its impact on our northern Illinois community. This current route would close many of our east-west secondary roads causing many serious issues for us. They are listed as follows:

1. It will cause emergency vehicles, such as fire & sheriff, to have a longer response time because of the re-routing due to these road closures.
2. Our Kings Consolidated School District #144 will be 1/2 mile from this rail. The current bus rides are 50 minutes but will be exceedingly longer. Response time for any accidents or concerns will be longer due to road closures and the noise levels from these trains could inhibit their education. Overall safety will be compromised.
3. With these road closures, the traffic will be forced to use two state highways, 251 & 64, causing an increase to an unsafe level. Farm machinery will be forced to use these state highways, making travel unsafe for everyone and impassable.
4. Most of these farmers between Kings and Rockford, IL and all along this proposed rail route will be forced to go 5-10 miles out of their way to get to adjacent land that has been split because of these tracks and secondary road closures.
5. Noise levels will increase and chemical use on vegetation will affect the wild life we enjoy, such as herons, eagles, songbirds, beavers, deer, badger and fox. These all keep our eco-system in balance.
6. Due to the high speed of these trains, the risk of derailment is greater. That could affect our schools, water supplies, agricultural land and the environment all along this route.

We would urge you strongly not to allow this Railroad to be built. This will affect a lot of people negatively and it's all for a group of people's monetary gain.

Sincerely,
Becky Bailey
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Kings, IL 61068