

4 475 E. Stonewall Rd
Gardner, IL 60424
June 10, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: FD 35952

Comments on Great Lakes Basin

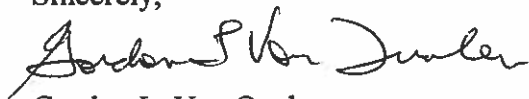
Dear Mr. Navecky,

As a life-long farmer in south-eastern Grundy County and one who is farming a farm which has been in the family for over 100 years, I'd like to make a few comments on the proposed GLB railway. I can't imagine any farmer is in favor of this proposed rail line, but I'd like to point out a few things that you may not have heard frequently.

From an economic view personally, I added acreage to my operation in 2013, and it is this parcel which will be intersected. I paid \$12,250 per acre for it. While the \$20,000 per acre that the railroad will pay me for it may sound generous, that farmground is lost forever. Some class I ground has cost even more. The small parcel that will be left after the railroad slices it, may not be big enough to offset the time it takes to drive several miles to get to it. I bought that ground as an investment and it's not all paid for yet. Its value will be considerably less if it is intersected by the railroad. That same year I spent over \$100,000 installing tile in an 80 acre field. While GLB will promise to repair tile I'm sure, it can take a year or two to discover a drainage problem. By then it would be too late to come back and repair damage or would be at such expense that neither the railroad nor I could afford.

Yes, this line of reasoning could be called selfish, but it needs to be multiplied hundreds of times for all the parcels the line will bisect. I urge you to reconsider this project in light of all the arguments against it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Gordon L. Von Qualen

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