

MONROE TOWNSHIP

EI - 23706

P.O. Box 21

Monroe Center, Ogle County, Illinois 61052

June 1, 2016

Meeting—Every 2nd Tuesday

7:30 P.M.
Firefighters Hall

Public Invited

Member Township Officials of Illinois

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 201423-0001

Mr. Navecky,

I am contacting you on behalf of Monroe Township. Monroe Township is a mostly rural area in Ogle County Illinois that would be affected by the Great Lakes Basin Transportation if constructed as proposed. We are very much opposed to the construction of this project. I am sure by now you have received many, many comments stating the same concerns over and over. And yes, they are valid. Of course it will negatively affect those in the area. There is no way it wouldn't. You cannot bulldoze that much prime farmland and install a busy railway without a negative impact on property values, the environment and quality of life for everyone in the area. You cannot do a project like this without the negative impacts that residents and property owners are concerned about. It simply cannot be done! What is most troubling is that people not at all affected by the project will be making the decisions whether or not our residents will have to sell their property and put up with a railroad so that private investors can try to make a profit. It is unconscionable to think that they could even have a chance to prevail when so many others will lose.

It is not just during the initial land grab that people will lose. Road closures will mean that people that once had easy access to their properties will now have to drive greater distances costing them more every time they leave their house. The same will go for farmers that have their farms divided and will have to drive their equipment farther and farm smaller, less efficient parcels costing them money so that others can try to make more money. It doesn't stop there. Everyone stuck waiting for the trains will be spending more time and gas money for transportation. This includes all residents, school districts, emergency responders, farmers and road crews. All would be spending more money so the railroad investors can try to make money. And this will go on forever! The additional costs to our residents will not end! Please do the right thing and deny the Great Lakes Basin Transportation plan!

Sincerely,



Thomas Lichty
Supervisor

815-393-4291

Monroe Township
P. O. Box 21
Monroe Center, Illinois 61052-0021



Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Pocket No. FD35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 201423-0001