

Gerald W. Warn
11352 N 15000E Road
Grant Park, IL 60914
(815) 465-2579

July 12, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Great Lakes Basin Rail Line – Environmental Impact Statement
Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I own 181 acres of land directly adjacent to the proposed path of the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line in Northeast Kankakee County. My land is currently a nature conservancy consisting of trees native to Illinois. We have a herd of deer, several flocks of turkeys, many pheasants, coyotes, ground rodents such as rabbits and a large lake filled with game fish. I have worked hard to maintain this property and keep it as natural as possible so that the animals that live on it can be peaceful and safe from harm.

I anticipate that the Railroad trains will cause great noise, hazardous material spills from derailments, obstruction of the animals' free passage throughout the area and ultimately drive them from my land and into the neighboring fields until they are either killed by the trains or cars. If there are the estimated 110 trains per day, there will be a train every 13 minutes around the clock – 24 hours a day – 365 days a year. This subjects my nature conservancy to over 40,000 trains each year.

We have a well for all of our water and I have a major concern of pollution of the ground water basin in the event of a derailment and hazardous materials spill. Since we live in such a rural area, I cannot obtain the water we need from any other practical method.

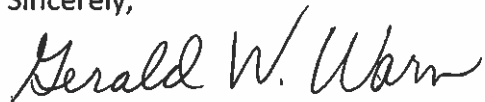
Further, the railroad tracks will require a berm that will prevent the flow of rain water and cause flooding that will damage my trees and cause substantial erosion. We have built many waterways into our property to properly direct the water that needs to drain into the Pike

Creek along our western most property edge. The railroad tracks will interrupt that drainage and cause flooding leading to stagnant water and issues with mosquitos.

The current railroad structure is fully capable of handling the trains that transit through the Chicagoland area daily. Not one of the major railroads is going to agree to use the Great Lakes Basin Railroad so if no railroads will use the tracks, this project is totally unnecessary and will only result in major disruption for property owners and all of the above issues for me specifically.

I would be very happy to discuss my issues with you personally. I feel very strongly that the railroad is unnecessary and will just result in a lot of issues for all of the affected property owners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald W. Warn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'W'.

Gerald W. Warn

Gerald W. Walther
11352 N 15000E Road
Grant Park, IL 60940

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