

Kevin J. Connolly
3283 Hayes Rd.
Rochelle, IL 61068
Kevconnolly1@hotmail.com

June 9, 2016

ATTN: Dave Navecky – Docket No. FD35952
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

As you are discovering, the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad, if approved by the Surface Transportation Board, would have the greatest environmental impact on people – their lives and their livelihoods.

Although I realize that the final route of the proposed railroad has not been determined, I am enclosing a copy of a map that has been displayed at hearings and a Google map that shows the route and my home, both with notations.

I am also enclosing three photographs.

Photographs #1 and #2 show the field through which the tracks may run. The field is 280 feet wide between my lawn and the lawn of the home at 3275 Hayes Road. The tracks would require a right-of-way of 200 feet, and those 100+ freight trains would practically be in my family room. The field between the houses has drainage tiles which are essential to prevent the homes and farmland from flooding. With the rails destroying these tiles, there will be nowhere for the water to drain, thus making the land untillable and creating annual flooding of the homes' basements.

Photograph #3 shows 3275 Hayes Rd. and 3268 Hayes Rd., homes which would be between the railroad tracks and the barricade where Hayes Rd. dead ends at Rt. 39. The proposed route would force emergency vehicles to cross an additional three crossing each way from the local hospital. At times, these homes and their families would be inaccessible to safety and emergency equipment.

Along with thousands of others, I urge you to deny approval of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Thank you.

Yours truly,


Kevin J. Connolly



#2



Google earth

feet
meters

2000
600



3283 HAYES RD.
ROCHELLE, IL 61068

3275 HAYES RD.
ROCHELLE, IL 61068

PHOTOGRAPHS #1 and #2

This field, through which
the Great Lakes Basin
Railroad may run,
is 280 feet wide.

The home at 3283 Hayes
Rd. is on the left.

The home at 3275 Hayes
Rd. is on the right.



PHOTOGRAPH #3

This photograph shows the homes that would be stranded between the railroad tracks and Interstate #39, as Hayes Rd. ends at the barricade on Rt. 39. The home on the left is 3275 Hayes Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068, and the home on the right is 3268 Hayes Rd., Rochelle, IL 61068.



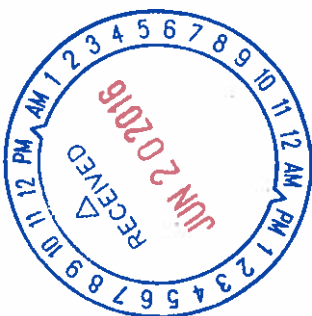
Kevin J. Connolly
3283 Hayes Rd,
Rochelle, IL 61068

CAROL STREAM IL 6051

JUN 20 2016 PM 5 1



Dave Navecky - Docket No. FD 35952
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



20423-0001

