

July 9, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket # FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

I am a farmer and have lived in Bradford Township, Rock County, all of my life. Tho my wife and I are at retirement age, we continue to farm, along with one of our sons. All my children and grandchildren also live in Bradford Township.

I am very concerned about the safety issues that will be caused by the presence of additional railroad crossings in our township.

To begin with, farm machinery today is large and does not move as fast as our cars or trucks, let alone a train. Often we are pulling a wagon full of grain or hay behind a farm tractor to our farm, between our farms, or to the grain elevator. An at grade railroad crossing is definitely hazardous to this slow but necessary travel.

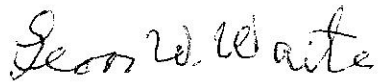
The children in this community are transported to school on school buses. Again, a high speed train at grade crossing presents a very real danger to the children and the bus driver. And, if a train is lengthy, getting to school on time can also be a problem for the bus driver and the students. The proposed closing of some roads also impacts the bus driver and students as to time spent on the bus because of circuitous routes.

As Bradford Township, and most all of rural Rock County, is served by volunteer firemen and para-medics, getting to a fire, accident or ambulance call in a timely manner could be hindered by a railroad crossing and especially in the areas where the GLB RR is planning to close roads to suit its proposed route.

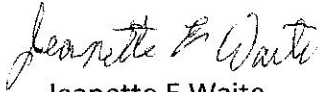
The potential of a collision or train derailment, especially with a cargo of hazardous material, at a crossing or elsewhere, would present multiple safety issues that our volunteer First Responders are not trained or equipped to handle.

Besides the immediate clean-up or containment of a hazardous substance, the potential for polluting our aquifer is substantial. While we people can, if need be, purchase bottled drinking water, that doesn't work for our livestock, nor the numerous streams and creeks that are prevalent in our community, and the wildlife they support.

I urge you to consider the above concerns in your deliberations regarding the merits of the GLB RR proposal. There are several existing railroads in Rock County now that could be utilized by upgrading if indeed there is a need for added rail. That would be preferable to taking more of our productive farmland, and creating potentially dangerous situations in our community just to build a railroad track that does not present a benefit to our community, Rock County, nor the State of Wisconsin.



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