

June 10, 2016

Dave Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

Attn: Docket No. FD 35952

395 E Street SW

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are strongly opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line proposal. Our farm in southern Winnebago County borders on Edson Road on land where part of the proposed railroad is planned. The surrounding area is primarily farm land and natural area. It has a quiet rural atmosphere that would be devastated by the noise, pollution and general operation of a railroad.

The creek that flows through our property flows into the Kishwaukee River. Any contamination would poison the entire water table. The soil in the area of the proposed railroad contains a great deal of sand creating problems for any construction that would be required to sustain tremendous weight. The natural areas provide habitat for wildlife. Part of our land is grassland which provides nesting areas for meadow birds such as bobolink and meadowlark that are struggling for survival due to habitat loss. The project is not environmentally forward looking or planned with sound thought.

Our farmland is precious to us and all farmland is precious to our nation and the world. It should be preserved, guarded and protected – not destroyed.

The proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line must find an alternate plan preferably using existing rail lines.

Sincerely,

James C. and Betty A. Austin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James C. Austin, Betty A. Austin".

8691 Shirley Road

Cherry Valley, IL 61016-9615

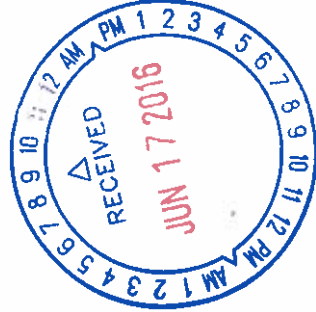
Phone: 815/874-2085

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Austin, Sr.
8691 Shirley Rd.
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



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