

Stephen T Shade
6320 Favor Rd
Rockton IL 61072

Nov 8, 2016

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket # FD 35952

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

We oppose the Great Lakes Basin railroad project for environmental reasons.

The threatened freshwater mollusk, *Elliptio dilatata*, native to the Pecatonica, and Rock Rivers would suffer further decline. The numbers of the mollusk plummeted in the Pecatonica River following the construction of the Meridian Rd bridge (42.4375N 89.1746W). The proposed route would result in another bridge crossing the Pecatonica River within a mile of the aforementioned bridge. The fear is another construction project would result in the demise of the bivalve species in this area. The proposal would also require crossing the Rock River in Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen T. Shade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the start.

Stephen T Shade

ST Shade
6320 Favor Rd
Rockton IL 61072



CAROL STEPHANSON
10 NEW JERSEY 301

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Surface Transportation Board
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