

Amy Wancho
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Phone: 815-791-3531
June 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Navecky,
I am writing this letter in great opposition to The Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project and all it brings in its wake. Writing was a huge part of my career as an educator, yet I am finding myself at a loss for words. My biggest fear is that I will not be able to properly communicate the impact this project will have on the core of our rural Midwest. This is why I am asking you not to get your information from second hand sources. There is no doubt in my mind that you are an extremely busy man and find it necessary to have trustworthy people under you to advise and assist you. I certainly understand this. However, I am asking you to do what I taught my students to do, and that is to not get your information from only one source or one mindset. How wonderful it would be if you could travel to the areas impacted by this proposed project and see for yourself the scar this endeavor would leave!!! I say scar generously, as that suggests a healing, but this would be more like an open wound on the Heartland of our country.

I am a generational farmer and I was taught, and modeled for, that the land is something to be cherished as a gift from our Creator. We are just stewards passing through who owe it to the next generations to leave a heritage and an honorable respect for all we have been given—a land full of God’s beautiful nature-habitats to SO many creatures, and rich land that feeds the people of America and beyond.

I walked beans in my younger years to remove the weeds from between the soybean plants and rows. Not one of my favorite jobs, but I learned a life lesson in the process. My dad taught me to get to the root of the problem, or the problem would continue. I am asking you to do the same. Look at what is really at the root of this project. Is it truly the greater good, or is it a way to impose eminent domain for personal gain? We still have talent in America. But, Crockett said to be sure you’re right, and then and only then go ahead. I am not sure the promoters would pass this simple rule of thumb. Thank you for listening. I know you will do the right thing...

God's Blessings ~
Sincerely
A. Wancho



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Mr. Dave Mavecky
Surface Transportation Board
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395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20143-0001

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