

June 6, 2016

EI-24233

Dave Navecky
Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
305 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

Docket No. FD-35952

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I am writing this letter as a concerned and impacted land owner in Boone County Illinois. A proposed railroad to be built by Great Lakes Basin Railroad is not a benefit to our county or any of the affected counties from Milton, Wisconsin to La Porte, Indiana.

My points of personal concerns for my farm and all farms are as follows:

- Drainage on my farm and all farms
- How will tiling be affected in farm fields? Thousands of dollars have been spent to prevent flooding and standing water
- The loss of additional land where an overpass is required and additional rails
- The impact of heavy equipment on all land and roads to build the railroad
- All farms where parcels of land would be land locked
- Increased cost of planting and harvesting because of fields being broken up into small parcels. (More labor cost and more fuel costs.)
- Roads that will be blocked and response time of emergency vehicles
- Impact on wet lands

The greatest of my concerns would be when a derailment occurs. Just in Boone County alone there are tributaries to the Kishwaukee River. The Kishwaukee River Ecosystem Partnership, founded in 1996, is an organization whose purpose is the continued preservation of the river's natural resources. Friends of the Kishwaukee River, founded in 2012, is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and enhance good stewardship of the river and the surrounding lands by restoring and preserving its natural character, encouraging safe and responsible recreation, protecting its watershed from degradation, and increasing our community's appreciation of its natural beauty. Our waters are a precious asset to everyone. Kishwaukee River water shed is home to 28 endangered, threatened, or watched species. Lastly, contamination of our aquifer would have catastrophic environmental impact.

My only recommendation would be for the current railways be improved and managed as efficiently as possible. STB has an obligation to stop this GLBR project.

Respectfully,

Shirley Anderson
Impacted Land Owner
9780 Anderson Rd, Capron, IL 61012

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