

3402 S. Paw Paw Road
Paw Paw, IL 61353
June 3, 2016

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

And, I hope it concerns my government at village, township, county, state and national levels, and that those who represent me there will stand up for the hard-working common citizen.

Please look deeply and carefully into the proposed plans for the Great Lake Basin Railroad. Please do not forget that our country was founded for the rights of individuals. To allow a private company to come in and rape prime farmland, then be able to sell it to larger corporations for a profit, is immoral and unethical.

At the STB meeting in Rochelle, Illinois on April 20, we had the impression that Mr. Navecky was taking our concerns seriously, and listening intently. We hope he was able to take all he heard and learned from all the scoping meetings, back to his office, and explain to the decision-makers why this railroad is a very bad idea for our nation's breadbasket.

The prime concerns have been stated many times:

The above-grade rails causing flooding and rotting in the cropland.

The vibrations effecting the livestock's lives.

The huge danger of Emergency Responders not being able to quickly reach medical and fire emergencies. The huge danger of a train accident overwhelming rural volunteer fire departments. The real danger of a train accident causing whole rural towns to go up in flames.

The displacing of families long and happily tethered to the Land.

It is a misconception that because rural people choose a bucolic life that they are uneducated or ignorant. We do understand Mr. Patton's dream of a more efficient rail delivery system. We also know that there are already enough tracks in existence to be able to work out a plan. And, that most of the Class I railroads do not intend to cooperate with the GLB plan.

For these reasons, and many others articulated by fellow concerned citizens, I urge you to deny the Great Lakes Basin Railroad any possibility of Eminent Domain, and to deny any permits necessary to plow through our rich heritage.

Sincerely,


Karen Vlasaty
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Mr. David Harckey
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