

April 16, 2017

Kenneth Blodgett
305 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Docket #FD 35952

Yes, I am opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Please DENY their plan.

My letter, dated October 21, 2016 to Dave Navecky, Surface Transportation Board, in regard to this situation highlighted not only the economic devastation and expense this proposed rail line would cause to homeowners, farmers, and communities, but also the effect on water supply. Now in the spring, with birds and monarch butterflies migrating north, how would this rail line effect the balance of nature? What about other wildlife?

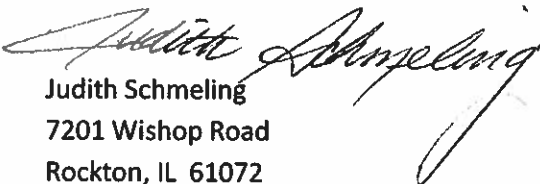
As a former Amtrak employee, I see many curves and 45 degree angles turns in the proposed route (especially in Kankakee County, IL). Not designed for efficiency. High speeds would only be possible for 20 to 30 miles through Winnebago County from the Wisconsin state line south to the town of Winnebago or Rochelle, Illinois.

Local economies would suffer from loss of tax monies, and carry the burden of increased costs for gasoline for emergency personnel to reach isolated areas, as well as the cost to educate fire and police in evacuation procedures if a tank car burns, or a train derails. The proposed rail system is a danger to all residents in the surrounding areas.

Proposed increase of jobs is "a smoke screen." Crews would be brought in from elsewhere to build the tracks, and long term employment would only be for a few people at switching stations.

Why should the "hoped for" profits of a few dictate the lives of thousands of people?

Sincerely,


Judith Schmeling
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