

Lynn Eichman

October 30, 2016

14619 Hannah Court

South Beloit, Illinois 61080

Dave Navecky, Surface Transportation Board

ATTN Docket No. FD35952

395 E. Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 201423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

Please oppose the Railroad suggested by the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Company. Federal authorities need to hear our comments. The Surface Transportation Board (Docket #FD 35952) should allow a comment period from our area. The GLBT has made a major shift in plans, taking the route through a previously undisclosed area. Those who stand to be directly impacted now had no reason to express their views before. People should have the right to speak their mind in this situation.

Our area for the proposed railroad is near the Illinois/Wisconsin line. Great pride and years of cooperation by many have saved large tracts of marsh, flood plains, and wet sand prairies. The Sugar-Pecatonica River Basin in our area drains 796 square miles in northern Illinois. One derailment of a hazardous waste spill would do tremendous damage. It would be a killer. Families would have to abandon their homes. Farming, animal life, hunting and recreational use would all be destroyed. Our environmental treasures would be gone. This proposal would be counter-productive to the many conservation programs funded by our government to protect these areas.

Our farms feed the world. Disturbing 24 acres of soil for every mile of railroad track is disgusting. Land broken up by train tracks is ruined for farm equipment that uses square fields for economical reasons. There would be increased fuel costs and land locked fields causing decreased production of crops and livestock. Annual income from farms would decrease. Another fear for farmers is exotic species coming into the area on pallets.

This project will do inestimable damage to our area. Land values will drop for homes and land, therefore raising taxes for everyone else to pay for schools, fire protection, etc. The risk is greater than any reward.

Road closings will lengthen time to get help for anyone in the area. Rail crossing safety is a big concern for all. Trains going 70 mph??? Can GLBT guarantee trains will not derail? Do they carry insurance for such a catastrophe? GLBT has never has never built a railroad and other railroads are not interested in the service GLBT offers. Chicago already has an existing program. CREATE is working on their infrastructure to improve movements of trains. In fact, over a BILLION dollars has been spent on this project.

Please ask the Surface Transportation Board (Docket # FD35952) for a comment period for this area. Vote against this proposal to help to save our environment, land values, agriculture and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Eckman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lynn" and last name "Eckman" clearly distinguishable.



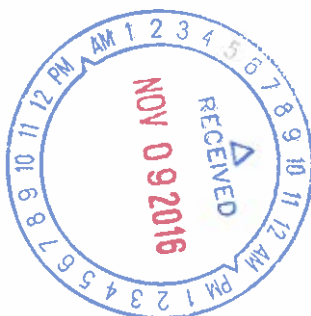
Mrs Lynn E Eichman  
14619 Hannah Ct  
South Beloit, IL 61080-9755

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Mr.DAVID NAVECKY  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
WashingtonD.C. 20423-0001



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*Mel Eichman*

Melvern Eichman  
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So. Beloit, IL. 61080

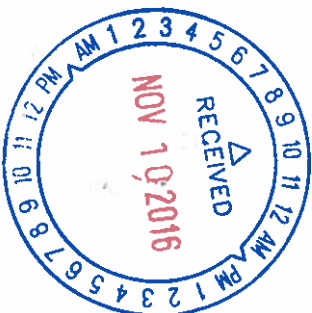
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