

December 20, 2016

TO: Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Docket # FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

MR. Blodgett: After reviewing the available information about the proposed Great Lakes Basin (GLB) Rail Project, it is my opinion that the proposed GLB Project has failed to sufficiently provide documentation that supports public convenience and necessity. For the following reasons I respectfully request that the STB cease any further action on this project.

1. I do not see an economic need for this new railroad in Rock County, Wisconsin. As a resident, I know of no backlog of trains here waiting for transit through Chicago, nor do I know of any industries here that ship the numerous trains per day that the GLB claims is needed. This project will impact the residents of Rock County, Wisconsin and not provide any real economic benefits to the residents and landowners.
2. The proposed rail line will cut through (3) farm parcels on our farm. The results of which will:
 - a. cause destruction or extensive re-design of our center pivot irrigation systems.

- (a. continued) This will include loss of Irrigated land due to shortened and modified Irrigation Systems.
- b. reduced access to our farm fields that will result in travelling 3 or more miles to gain access to our fields. The extra moving of large farm machinery on small rural roads will reduce safety of all users of these small rural roads.
- c. Loss of prime farm land. Our land is very productive class I agricultural soils. It is very difficult to find and purchase class I agriculture soils in our area, especially to try and replace on an acre for acre basis. If a parcel does come up for sale, it is usually much larger than what is lost to the railroad, and therefore I will be unable to purchase without securing a huge amount of financing to buy it, even if available. The land that is lost will forever be unable to produce income for our farm.
- d. I have concerns that potential train derailments could spill toxic chemicals on the adjoining farm land. This would render the land unusable for farming. Again, this would reduce the income from our land.
3. The proposed rail line would have potentially

(3. continued) disastrous effects on our local emergency services. In rural areas are at far greater distances than in urban areas. Closed roads and long wait times at crossings will lengthen already long response times for our emergency services.

4. Current class I railroad companies are working on the Chicago rail congestion problem with the CREATE Plan. Let the railroad companies fix the problem with their own plan. This will save the loss of farmland and the economic loss that building the GLB Railroad will impose on all the residents affected.

The above provided information is what led me to the conclusion that the proposed GLB Project is inconsistent with public convenience and necessity. It was insufficiently vetted before starting the approval process. I respectfully request that the STB takes a "no action" on this project.

Scot Krebs

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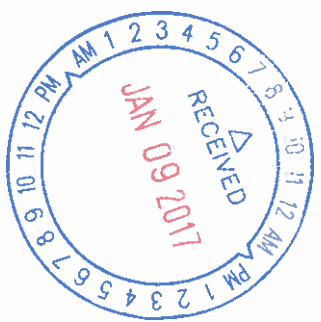
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