

Great Lakes Basin Railroad. Surface Transportation Board

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The Great Lakes Basin Railroad's proposed railroad cuts right through the center of a farm my son rents. He has spent lots of time and money putting in new tiles and waterways. The water runs heavy across the farm, but he has stopped the erosion and turned it into a very productive farm. The rail line goes right over these improvements. It will cut off the natural flow of the water and cause flooding. There will be no road access for half of the farm.

The elderly ladies who own the land have lived on it most of their lives. They were in tears over the proposed railroad cutting their farm in half and being next to their home. The noise and diesel fumes from 100 trains per day going 70 mph, is only the beginning of the impact on their lives. A small amount of money now will never make up for the loss of farm income in the future, or the devaluation of the property values. No one will ever want to buy or rent a house that close to a railroad, or a farm that has a train track dividing it and floods.

These ladies will never sell any part of the family farm they love. I hate to think of them trying to negotiate with the land agents. It will take eminent domain to force them to let Great Lakes Basin Railroad built on their property. This is just one of many family farms on the proposed route, but none of us who live anywhere near it want to see our quiet country life ruined by train noise, closed roads and waiting for trains.

Please find this rail proposal inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity.                      Thank you.