

Other Submissions

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Please fill out the following information to help us complete your filing:

Docket #: FD -35952 -Jake's Feed
and Garden -

Subject: * Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

First Name: * Doug

Middle Name:

Last Name: * Wilks

Address: * 326 s. state rd. 49

City: * valparaiso

State: * In

Zip Code: * 46383-

Email Address: * doug@jakesfeed.com

Group/Affiliation:

Message:



Doug Train Letter.pdf

Doug Train Letter

My name is Doug Wilks, a 35 year resident of Porter County Indiana. Along with my wife I own a Feed and Garden store, Jake's Feed and Garden.

The proposed Great Lakes Basin rail project would be approx. 1/8 of a mile south of our store on State Road 49, and about 3 miles east of our home where it will cross and likely dead end Porter County Road 200 South. Our store employs one resident whose home will be 80 feet from the line itself.

We have heard from many customers who would have their property crossed or divided by this rail line. Some have built up their family farms for generations. Much of that ground is some of the best in Indiana for agriculture.

Besides the fact that this project will be of little benefit to our county (other than possible some temporary construction jobs), it will disrupt life in many ways both subtle and severe for a number of people. The safety of school buses crossing and recrossing these lines is one major concern. The access routes of emergency services will be greatly impacted, with longer times for ambulances to and from health emergencies.

In addition, I have a philosophical opposition to groups of private investors using eminent domain to acquire private property. In addition, the line seems to have few customers lined up, so the viability is likely overstated.

The local opposition group has proposed an alternate route using existing rail right-of-ways so as to avoid much of the contentious property taking. This route deserves serious consideration.

Please balance the benefits to a small number of investors vs. the quality of life, safety, and livelihood of many individuals.

Doug Wilks

326 S. State Rd. 49

Valparaiso IN