

Margot J. Facklam
2513 Lundgren Road
Pecatonica, Illinois

October 18, 2016

TO: Dave Navecky,
Surface Transportation Board,
Docket No. FD 35952,
E Street SW.
Washington DC, 20423-0001

**RE: Privately For-Profit Funded Investors' Great Lake Basin Transportation
Railway**

Dear Mr. Navecky,

My name is Margot J. Facklam and I am a resident of Winnebago County, Illinois. I am sending you a copy of what's going on with a private profiteer investor's group in my area. Our farmers and farm families may be losing their farmland and livelihoods in Winnebago County, Illinois because a private for-profit group of investors want to take our farmland for a railroad line. The Great Lake Basin Transportation group state that the principle purpose of its rail-line will be to provide Class I Railroads and a regional railroad utilizing the Chicago Metropolitan terminal with more efficient options to route trains around Chicago. See (winnebagoboonefarmbureau.org).

Based on the United States amendments (See copy) becoming a part of the United States Constitution and henceforth becoming collectively known as the Bill of Rights could any unnecessary and possibly illegal eminent domain actions happen to our farmers and their families in Winnebago County, Illinois? See copy. If our Constitutional amendments give us all rights how can the privateer for-profit GLBT take what they want against the rights of the farmers so the privateers can have a railroad around Chicago, charge tolls, put forth a 50 foot wide area for future use of pipe lines for oil lines and hazardous materials possibly piping through our area of Winnebago County, Illinois? Is what they are doing a right or taking what does not belong to them? You don't take what belongs to someone else. I hope you will read this as well as the accompanying copy. There is a lot to consider. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Margot J. Facklam
Sincerely, Margot J. Facklam

The Bill of Rights

Our amendments became a part of our United States Constitution on December 15, 1791. They became a part of the Constitution and are collectively known as the Bill of Rights. The amendments guarantee freedom, the right to bear arms, quartering soldiers, protection for persons and private property, rights of accused persons, trial by jury, protection against excessive punishments, protection against seizure and search, rights retained by the people, the right to petition the government for redress of wrongs and other entities.

Amendment I states Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances, actions that have been imposed that are illegal, inequitable or unjust.

The Department of the Interior, under the Secretary of the Interior supervises public business regarding the General Land Office, Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, Office of Indian Affairs, Patent Office, Bureau of Pensions, Bureau of Education, National Park Service, and Capital Building and Grounds.

The Department of Agriculture is charged with the supervision of Agriculture in the United States. It exercises many functions in connection with the governmental assistance to farmers' cooperative organizations, soil preservation, agricultural research etc.

The Great Lake Basin Transportation Railway project states in this web-site (winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org) that the principal purpose of its rail-line is to provide Class I Railroads and a regional railroad utilizing the Chicago Metropolitan terminal with more efficient options to route trains around Chicago. There will be eminent domain happening to our farmers and their families in Winnebago County. This involves not only farmland being used but other trains using the railways. This will impact all of us; fire-trucks, ambulances, school buses with children aboard, people getting to work. Read the October 12-18 commentary, page 20 of the Rock River Times to see what the Winnebago County villages, towns, rural areas, and people getting to work will be faced with because a private for-profit rail-line owned by investors will be taking our farmers' land.

In an article in the Rock River Times paper (October 5-11 page 4) the head of GLBT asked the executive director of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, "Does this make any sense? The executive director answered with a smile and "It makes all the sense in the world." A GLBT attorney 'feels this is the best possible alternative for their project; it minimizes on existing farms, not to say there will be no impact, but there will be some.'

Do these fellows know what to do and what they are doing? This is a private for-profit project. It's obvious that they are unsure of how to go about what they are doing with the changes that have been made so far. Have these for-profit-railway investors any sense or are they just trying to take our Winnebago county farmland and make money using the railroad and charging a toll? The Rock River Times paper writes that to date no

other rails have supported or sanctioned this for-profit project. This private for-profit project needs to get out of Winnebago County while the planners are at their County Club and our farmers and farm families are working from dawn to after sunset on their farms.

Check the laws. It's easy to say I'll give you \$20,000 for an acre of land. Investors can say that but can still get our farmland for a lot less.

I applaud the Winnebago County Board members who are not in favor of this privately funded for-profit project...all except one Winnebago County Board member is showing prudent judgment by not being in favor of something that cannot help but harm Winnebago county. The future shows that routing oil and hazardous material may be coming to Winnebago county with the inclusion of an area for future pipe lines along the rail lines. Don't let this happen! Winnebago County does not need oil and hazardous products and materials coming through Winnebago County on the rails. The investors are looking for more profits thinking of all the ways they can use Winnebago county and us.

What can we do? Say NO! .

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FIRST CLASS

