



INDIAN TRAIL GRANGE # 2361

*109 E. 181st Ave.
Lowell, Indiana 46356*

RE: Docket No. FD 35952

June 6, 2016

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.

The Grange is a fraternal organization in the United States that encourages families to band together to promote the well-being of the community and agriculture. The Grange, founded after the Civil War in 1867, is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in a building built by the organization in 1960. Indian Trail Grange specifically was organized in 1938 with the Grange building in Lowell, Indiana being dedicated in 1948.

At a meeting of the Indian Trail Grange #2361 held on Monday June 6, 2016, a resolution opposing the proposed high speed rail line by Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. was approved by the membership and signed by the Indian Trail Grange President Butch Bukovac.

The resolution cites numerous reasons why the rail line is detrimental to the agricultural community and unfavorable for the residents and farmers in this area affected by the proposed rail line.

The Grange is opposed to converting limited, irreplaceable, food producing, income producing agricultural land into heavy industrial property when existing, abandoned and underutilized rails are available.

We are opposed to taking historic 100 year farms, farms handed down from fathers to sons for generations in order to replace unneeded rail line that was abandoned or given to bike paths just within the last 30 years.

Many farms will be divided by the proposed rail road tracks leaving portions of the farms impractical to plant and harvest severely diminishing farmer's livelihoods.

If a farm field can be accessed by another route, the danger of crossing the rail road tracks with large farm equipment will create a serious safety hazard for the farmers and the traveling public.

Large farm machinery could get caught on the rails while driving over the rail road crossings thereby blocking approaching trains.

Field tiles through farms will be broken causing flooding of fields that will destroy crops.

Much of the income derived in the affected area comes from agriculture. Land taken out of production is land lost forever. The economy of the area will be hindered by the loss of farm income.

Drainage is a major issue in south lake county. Building this rail line would create a dam dividing the north side of the rails from the south side.

In this area our water shed flows to the Kankakee River. The residents of the towns in Illinois along the Kankakee River get their water out of this river. Train derailments along this line could easily contaminate ground water and in turn the water in the Kankakee River.

Emergency services would face serious delays and obstacles responding to emergencies due to the volume of trains using the proposed tracks and possible road closures. These delays will result in loss of life and loss of property due to fires.

Land values in the area will drop dramatically.

Several of the major rail carriers have said they do not plan to use this rail line therefore disputing a viable purpose and need for this rail line.

In summary the proposed railroad would be detrimental to the agricultural community and unfavorable for the farmers and residents in the area. We are requesting that the Surface Transportation Board deny this project.

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Butch Bukovac", is written over a horizontal line.

BUTCH BUKOVAC, PRESIDENT

INDIAN TRAIL GRANGE

Lowell, Indiana