

May 26, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky,
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

STB Docket No. FD 35952
Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project (GLB)
Mr. Dave Navecky,

I am a farm owner in Kankakee County, IL. I am writing to express my concern about the long term effects of a new railroad running through the prime farm land in our county. I attended the April 11, 2016 public hearing in Manteno, IL. I have the following comments:

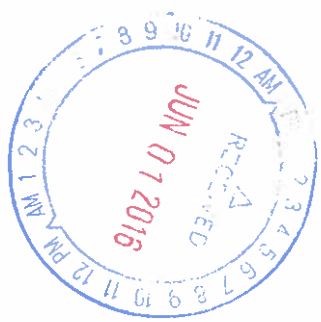
- 1) I request a full environmental review of this project, and no fast track be considered.
- 2) I request that eminent domain not be granted to GLB, otherwise the landowners will not have any negotiation for compensation of their lost land.
- 3) The 2015 Amtrak Gateway Chicago Area Blue Ribbon Panel completed a report that offered many possible solutions to the railroad congestion through Chicago. However, the GLB project was not one of the solutions.
- 4) GLB is proposing a 200 foot right of way, 50 feet of which would be sold or leased to utilities. I do not believe the Surface Transportation Board has the authority to grant this extra 50 feet of right of way. I do not want the additional 50 feet.
- 5) The closing of most of the Township Roads that the GLB railroad would cross would cause unsafe hardships and delays to police, fire departments, ambulance calls, school buses, and snowplows. These road closings would cause additional time for these emergency responses, and additional time for school buses to/from school.
- 6) The time for farmers to get to the other part of their farm that has been cut off by the railroad would cause high amounts of travel time on busy roads with the large agricultural equipment. This is a safety issue for both farmers and other drivers.
- 7) The farm land was tiled over the years to drain low spots in the fields, flowing to ditches and creeks to keep the land tillable. The building of a railroad will interrupt and destroy these tiles and will not allow the farm fields to drain properly, causing huge crop losses.

Thank you for your consideration.



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