



**Northern Illinois 4-H Camp Association
4-H Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See
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Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Docket No. FD 35952

June 9, 2016

Mr. Navecky,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Northern Illinois 4-H Camp Association /dba Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See we hereby submit the following comments on the Draft Scope of Study and potential alternatives to GLB's proposed alignment.

Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See is a private not-for-profit over-night youth camp serving 4-H families and the general public since 1946. For the last seventy years, "Camp Shaw" has operated as a living memorial to WW II veterans where kids from Chicago and twenty-three collar counties feel safe exploring its natural environment, swimming in the pool or the unspoiled Rock Creek, shooting bows and arrows, or many other quintessentially "summer camp" experiences. Tens of thousands of campers have over the past seventy years enjoyed a technology-free setting undisturbed by the noise and distractions of the outside world.

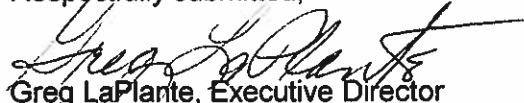
The proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad passing along our property line would forever change the very nature of Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See. Camp songs would be interrupted, the peaceful sleep of two hundred plus kids interrupted every twenty minutes, and wildlife extirpated.

The proposed route cuts directly through the pristine Rock Creek Watershed and right along the Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See property line. The creek that so many campers have learned to love, hike in and "butt surf" down its spectacular waterfall, would present a clear and present danger and major environmental hazard should a spill occur. Increased flooding and reduced quality of habitat would seriously impact Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See and result in devastating loss of revenue.

If this alignment is completed as planned, Camp Shaw-Was-Nas-See will not be the camp that was imagined in 1946. It will not be the camp we operate today. It must not be the Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See of the future. The impacts of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad upon land use, recreation, biological resources and water resources would be devastating.

We request the Surface Transportation Board issue a Final Decision to deny GLB's request to construct and operate the proposed rail line. Alternatively, we request the STB conduct a full review of the GLB project and not grant an Exemption if requested.

Respectfully submitted,

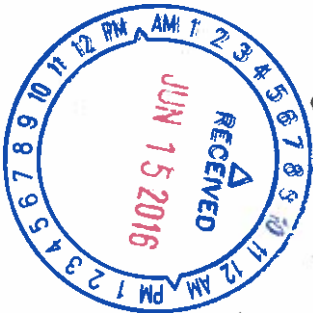
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg LaPlante", written over the printed name.

Greg LaPlante, Executive Director
Northern Illinois 4-H Camp Association

And the following board members

Elizabeth Benoit
Floyd Catchpole
Kevin Culver
Rick Dennis
Russel Higgins
Stephen Hill
Stephen Linneman
David Osborne
Mark Steffen
Megan Walsh

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