

June 6, 2016

Theodore Armstrong Jr.
1098 N. 18000 West Road
Reddick, IL 60961

Dave Navecky-Docket No. FD35952
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
305 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I would like to express my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC rail line project. Docket #35952. I oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal. The impact on current land use are as follows, permanent destruction of prime farmland, large fields getting divided into smaller pieces which will cause a decrease in productivity, farm implements then may be too big to use on newly created smaller fields, and maintenance of the unused portion of the 200 foot wide easement. Another concern is the transportation system issue with the closing of township roads impacting rural school bus routes, emergency responders, commute time and business. Impact on agricultural activities could include delays at crossings for farm equipment, affecting productivity and profits, railroad will cause land locked fields and pastures, increased traffic of farm equipment on township and county roads, damage to existing field tile lines, and increased use of herbicides to maintain unused portions of the easement. Water resources will also be affected due to the natural grade of the land will be altered disrupting the natural flow of surface water, potentially creating artificial ponds and wetlands. Stagnant water will lead to issues with mosquitos, wildlife and access to areas, also the possibility of groundwater contamination due to spills and or

derailments. Increase risk for permanent damage to soils surrounding the track with the transportation of oil

and chemicals could lead to some of the best soil in the world being lost. Socioeconomic concerns are the decrease land value for surrounding properties, resulting in a lower tax base and less real estate taxes, limits use of bordering land, and 24 acres per mile of railroad will be taken out of production forever, causing loss of farm income for current and future farm owners. Over 6,000 acres of easements land taken and limited use of bordering land. There are risk factors associated with a privately funded company taking on this huge project and this company does not have a proven track record building railroads. What will happen if they run out of money or if the company is not profitable? Increased noise and vibration levels both day and night with the use of two tracks that will be able to handle 110 trains per day. That is one train every 13 minutes.

This new line merely allows the rail shippers to get their product to their destination quicker which results in more profit for the shipper. Since when can eminent domain be used to generate more corporate profits? The inefficiencies of the Chicago train terminal should not be solved by creating a problem in the countryside.

Google is an organization that could be brought in to determine how technology could be used to

make the terminal more efficient. They have concerns for the environment and could help save precious farmland and the peace and tranquility of the country.

Respectfully Submitted by : Theodore Armstrong Jr.



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