

May 8, 2016
Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Navecky

I am writing to the Surface Transportation Board to urge you to deny the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC permission to build their GLB rail line. I am 40 years of age and just built my home 5 years ago on one of my family farms that have been in my family for over 100 years. It has one of the best views in the county and it is so peaceful. All kinds of wild life live and bed down in the tree lines and waterways that the train would go through. This would all be gone if this train goes through. The train would be a few hundred yards from my house. The noise and vibration would be absolutely devastating. The view and the sound of the trains every half hour or more day and night would make it agonizing to live here. The value of my home would plummet which would put me under water on my mortgage.

The land in Boone County has the best soil for growing food in the world! MOLLISOL! Only 7% of the non-polar surface has Mollisol. 25% of that is in the Midwest. The grasslands in Europe, Asia, some in Argentine Pampa but 25% of the worlds Mollisol can be found in the Great Plains of the USA and Boone County is covered with it. That is why farmland is so important and precious in Boone County. Our farmers help feed the world. Maps can be seen at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/soil/i/mollosols.jpg>.

My family just had IDOT I-90 claim eminent domain on some of that precious land. We had to give up 22 acres just so that they did not have to rebuild a bridge. But that was for the public use not PRIVATE use. The Great Lakes Basin Transportation LLC is a private firm. They hope to secure eminent domain classification from IL to build this rail line for their private gain. Granting them a permit by the STB would only hinder our fight. Please consider the huge loss of crop productivity should this rail destroy our farmland.

If the project was to move forward, rivers will be impacted by new bridge construction. The resulting pollution from the construction of the bridges and the daily train traffic would kill wild life. Not to mention the destruction of riverbanks. Streams, seasonal and permanent will be blocked by the tracks, resulting in marshlands and stagnant water, breeding ground for mosquitoes and the nor-virus.

Personally, I do not see the socioeconomic value of destroying 6700 acres of farmland, pulling millions of dollars out of peoples pockets and destroy natural wildlife refuge. So a (for profit) private company can move freight faster around the south side of Chicago. Just looking at 6700 acres x 150 bushel of corn per acre = 1,005,000 bushels of corn in lost production and bushel per acre is on the low side. With corn at \$3.50 per bushel this project would pull \$3,517,500.00 out of the affected farm economy per year. Corn at \$7.00 would pull twice that amount out of the affected farm economy. Mr. Patton suggests that Boone County is undeveloped, he's right. **YOU DON'T BUILD STRUCTURES ON VALUEABLE FARMLAND. YOU FARM IT!**

WASTE and DEVESTATION of our natural resources is what Great Lakes Basin Transportation, which is not a railroad, seeks to impose on the residents of the affected areas. No family should be subjected to the proposed 20 to 100 per day dangerous freight trains running through their back yards and farm fields. No community, no matter how small, should be forced to have the constant drone of the train. Just think if it was your home, well water or farmland to be destroyed. The Union Pacific Railroad has already publicly stated this proposed new rail line is unneeded. So I am urging you to save rural Illinois by stopping Great Lakes Basins Transportation's proposed rail line.

Sincerely,
Jesse Funderburg
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