

Lowell senator opposes freight rail project

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State Sen. Rick Niemeyer, R-Lowell

INDIANAPOLIS — State Sen. Rick Niemeyer, R-Lowell, is reiterating his opposition to a proposed freight railroad that seeks to cut across Northwest Indiana and bypass Chicago en route to southeast Wisconsin.

Great Lakes Basin Transportation last month asked the federal government to approve its plans for a 261-mile, \$2.8 billion rail line that the company claims would be the largest Chicago-area freight rail expansion in more than a century.

Niemeyer contends the project, which is expected to run through his south Lake County district, would negatively affect the Region's environment and quality of life.

"Using the farm land and rural residences would forever alter the serene rural landscape that generations have shared and passed on, along with damaging the complex series of underground drains in the fields, which could result in the land being unusable for agriculture," he said.

"After discussing this proposed project with concerned constituents and business leaders, I and others in our community do not support the construction of this rail line."