

April 11, 2016

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 East Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Dave Navecky
Re: Docket No FD 35952

Just recently we have been made aware of the Great Lake Basin Railroad request for building a railroad that would bypass Chicago's congested rail service.

My first thought was who will feed the people if all the prime, productive farm land is taken and turned into housing, parking lots, railroads, landfills, malls, interstates and other "soil destroying" projects? Having grown up on a farm and owning a farm now, I understand what's happening. As the rails are constructed soil is compacted, borrow pits are dug to provide dirt for flyovers, waterways are interrupted, tiles are broken, ponding occurs, water runoff is compromised. Ground water can be polluted that can seep into wells through the water table. Local township roads will be closed forcing farmers to drive equipment miles to get to their property on the other side of the tracks. School bus routes would be compromised as well as the safety of the students crossing any of these very busy tracks. What about our fire departments and ambulances? Their response time would be greatly increased with road closers or stopping at a busy crossing. What is this rail line carrying? Freight is one thing, oil and hazardous materials are another. With that many trains, we've read 110 per day running at 70 MPH, there is a high chance of derailment. In the case of hazardous materials, that can pollute the ground forever. Who will be responsible for the cleanup?

Let me state that I am all for progress and do think I'm forward thinking. I do have two wind turbines on my farm. I could see that we needed to produce our own electrical energy in this country to provide for our growing population. I'm just wondering if this railroad is actually needed at this time. There is CREATE that is trying to work its way around Chicago and involves passenger, commuter and freight rail lines. We understand that the other established rail lines are not in favor of this line and do not plan to join forces with them.

Please deny their request to proceed with this rail line. We are definitely NOT in favor of it for the above stated reasons.

Very sincerely,

Linda Hinkston,

1306 Monroe Street
Mendota, Illinois 61342
815-440-7897



PEORIA IL 616

13 APR 2016 PM 1 T

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 East Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

ATTN: Dave Naveck
Docket # FD 3595

Linda Hinkston
1306 Monroe St.
Peoria, IL 61614-1469

