

June 2, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Steve and Chris Johnson
Northwind Arabians
3426 N Hall Rd.
Whitewater, WI.53190
Live in Johnstown Center in Rock County

Re: Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are writing to express our concerns about the Great Lakes Basin high-speed freight railway proposal. Our concerns include, but are not limited to, the permanent loss of prime agricultural land, the loss of farm income, the decrease in property values, the loss of our rural landscape.

These farmers have farmed in the Rock County area for generations. The long-term effects of this proposal on the many family farms in its path are of great concern to us. We request that the STB examine the short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects of the loss of farm income to farmers, businesses, and rural communities, along with the decrease in property values and how that will impact the tax bases of rural communities. Along with that, we request that the STB study the impact of a high-speed rail on animals, homes, buildings and the public in general.

We are also concerned this rail line would bring many dangers with it, including noise pollution, contamination and loss of both natural habitat and farmland that benefit the economy of this state. Other concerns include possible consequences to groundwater, current pipelines, and accessibility of emergency medical services.

Alternatively, we suggest deleting the Wisconsin route entirely. The Wisconsin rail system cannot accommodate the type of rail traffic in this proposal.

Another option is to examine the use of a connection using existing track in Wisconsin. We currently have a railroad that sees little rail traffic. It would be much more cost effective to improve this existing line requiring much less destruction of farmland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve and Chris Johnson