

November 12, 2016

I am writing to let you that we want to protest the proposed railroad project. This business proposal will have many, many negative effects. This is a for profit transportation company, not a railroad. I understand the congestion in the Chicago area; however, these improvements are ongoing. Well over a billion dollars has already been spend by the CREATE project. It isn't complete, but it is working to improve the congestion.

This railroad proposal #3 would run through my family's centennial farm on Wishop Rd., Rockton, Il. This farm is land that our family has worked hard to maintain and raise our families. Currently, my brother, his wife and 4 daughters are living on this homestead. His farmland and pasture would be taken up with the railroad. A mile of the rail and its 200 feet of right away will take up 24 acres of rich soil. This will cause a decrease in his annual income for years to come.

The rail will also disrupt the cattle on his pasture with the noise levels. The 70 mile/hour train will scare the livestock. The increased noise and vibration levels will be both day and night. This will cause all sorts of decreases in productivity in from the livestock production and in dairy animals.

The land will be divided. It could mean land locked fields and pastures. Soil and water sources can become contaminated with any derailments. There will be alteration of stream banks, drainage ditches and creeks. The groundwater will be contaminated by the potent chemicals that will be used to kill vegetation along the track.

In Rock County, Beloit Wisconsin on Finley Rd. is where I live with my husband and family. His family's land is surrounding our home. There are acres of crops on this farmstead as well as surrounding neighbors. We have a neighbor with Downs's syndrome who wanders. He is on a watch list with the authorities due to him straying from home. This would be a dangerous environment that can be scary and confusing for him.

This business plan will take up acres of land that raises crops for our living. My husband's family farm has prime farmland. This is rich soil acreage. The land will be stripped of its intended use. Large fields will be divided into small pieces which will decrease productivity and prove to be difficult to get machinery in to work the land. There will be a loss of crop production. This valuable land is our income to support our families. And for what? For a company that has never built anything to build its first railroad. Who will be there to bail them out if it is a failed project?

We have evergreen and fruit trees planted for wildlife. Across the road is land in government projects for wildlife. Not only will our farm land be disrupted, but the wildlife habitats will be taken away. Where will these hundreds of animals have their homes and feeding grounds? Hunting grounds will be lost. Who will build and maintain the fencing to keep wildlife and livestock off the railroad?

I urge you to consider the many, many negative effects and approval to allow the GLB railroad proposal to pass will have. Whether it is the #1, 2, 3 or 10th route, the effects will be devastating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynell Brown', written in dark ink.

Dr. Lynell Brown

3036 W. Finley Rd.

Beloit, WI. 53511



MILWAUKEE WI 53015
15 NOV 2016 PM 5:1



Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Docket # FD35952
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

20423-0001

