

July 7, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railway (GLB) for the various reasons outlined in this document. The proposed GLB is set to run through what was once known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh aka The Everglades of the North until man came through in the name of progress, began draining it and developed it into highly productive farmland.

Environmental Justice

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, farm and ranch families comprise just **two percent** of the U.S. population; thus, making farmers a minority population. The majority of farms are family operations passed from one generation to the next.

Farmers would be hit the hardest since most of the land that the GLB wants to take appears to be farmland. Years of future profits would be gone forever. \$20,000 an acre that is being offered would never make up the future profits from crops produced from the land. Additionally, the taking of valuable farmland for a railroad would decrease property values, thus the amount that property owners pay in taxes would decrease. Additionally, farmers and surrounding property owners in the vicinity of the railroad would also have a decreased valuation of property. Townships rely on the tax base for funding for schools among other things. Farmers pay a lot of property taxes. If land values decrease, tax funds decrease. Schools would definitely lose money. Railroad wins kids lose. So, farmers, the minority, and innocent school children would be the victims of this environmental injustice called Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Sincerely,

Miranda & Richard Serletic

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