

PO Box 512
Rockton, IL 61072
November 11, 2016

Mr. Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Docket Number FD 35952

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

Our family farm and home are within a half mile of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation Railroad route through Winnebago County, IL. We are the fourth generation to live on River Dale Farm and anticipate passing the property to the two generations following us.

This area is prime habitat for wildlife and waterfowl due to our proximity to the Nygren Wetlands and the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station in the Colored Sands Forest Preserve. Our farm is visited by Sandhill Cranes, Pelicans, and Egrets. Recent years have seen the return of beavers and River otters. Bald Eagles nest and rear their young on our farm and we often see the endangered Harrier Hawk.

Since we border the Pecatonica River and the farm includes several sloughs we have a water table of eight feet or less. A derailment involving a spill of toxic materials would affect our water supply for many years. In addition, the loss of productive farmland seems counterproductive given America's role in feeding the world.

I could list many other reasons I oppose this project but will simply ask that you do not give approval by designating this project No Action, No Build.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Mohring
815-624-8200

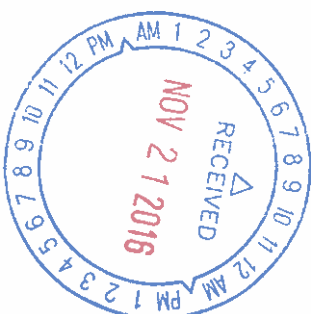
Marilyn Mohring
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CAROL STREAM, IL 601

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