



BLOCK GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD

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Winnebago County & 10 Others Against Great Lakes Basin Railroad

THREE STATES --- ELEVEN COUNTIES IMPACTED

~~ Join-Like-Share-Support these groups!!

FOR SIGNS, HANDOUT MATERIAL, INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR COUNTY GROUP!

** (LAKE & PORTER, IN) --- RAILED - Residents Against Invasion of Land by Eminent

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1525454401095164/>

** (LAPORTE, IN) LaPorte County Against GLB RR

<https://www.facebook.com/laportecoagainstglbrr/>

** (ROCK, WI) ~ ROCK against the RAIL - <https://www.facebook.com/rockagainsttherail/?fref=ts>

** (BOONE, IL) ~ Citizens against "The Great Lakes Basin Railroad" project (Boone) -

<https://www.facebook.com/Citizens-against-The-Great-Lakes-Basin-Railroad-project-460707847448470/>

** (OGLE, IL) ~ Ogle County Community Against GLB (Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project) -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1115053345223394/>

** (LASALLE & LEE, IL) ~ BLOCK GLB Railroad - <https://www.facebook.com/BLOCK-GLB-Railroad-830614470397359/>

** (GRUNDY, IL) ~ Grundy County Against the GLB RR -

<https://www.facebook.com/Grundy-County-Against-the-GLB-RR-1113311438720530/?fref=ts>

** (KANKAKEE, IL) Kankakee County Block GLB

<https://www.facebook.com/kankakeecountyblockglb/>

** (WINNEBAGO, IL) Winnebago County Against GLB Railroad

<https://www.facebook.com/Winnebago-County-Against-GLB-Railroad-297234707326541/>



GLBRR Preferred Route, Milton, WI to La Porte, In.

- How many acres of productive farm land will be lost?
- How many lives will be destroyed?
- Rob from the poor and give to the rich!
- Makes a lot of money for some!
- And no sense/cents to others.
- Rail system runs within 5 miles of the most densely populated area of Winnebago County.



Top Ten Chemical Releases

- ▶ Gasoline
- ▶ Chlorine
- ▶ Diesel Fuel
- ▶ Propylene
- ▶ Hydrochloric Acid
- ▶ Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- ▶ Carbon Dioxide
- ▶ Sulfuric Acid
- ▶ Argon
- ▶ Propane

Rural agencies are not trained or equipped to handle large scale rail incidents!

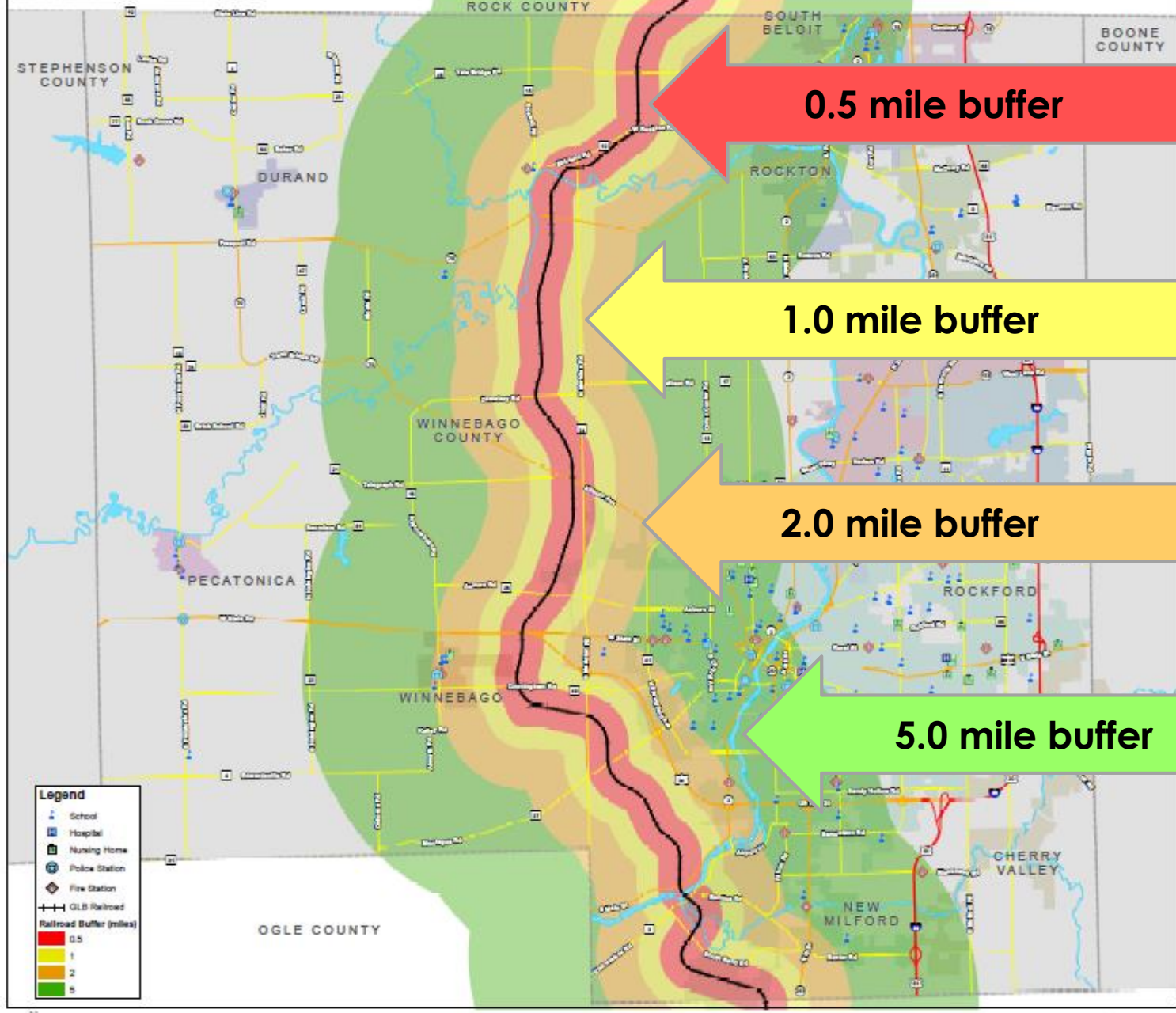


Concerns

- First Responders Safety
- Air Pollution
- Surface & Ground Water Contamination
- Evacuations
- Business Interruption

40 CFR part 92 governs exhaust issues
Respiratory Health Association <http://www.lungchicago.org/diesel-pollution-trains/>

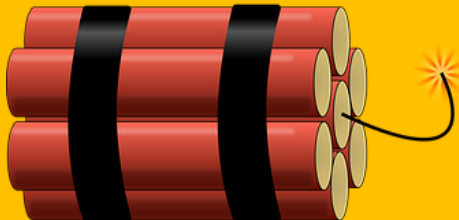
U.S. EPA. (2002). Health Assessment Document for Diesel Engine Exhaust. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Center for Environmental Assessment, Washington Office, Washington, D.C. Retrieved June 30, 2008 from <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/>



“Protective
Action
Distances”
taken
from the
2016
Emergency
Response
Guidebook

EVACUATION ROUTE used by LEPC Local Emergency Planning Committee

The Train Bomb!



1 Tanker = 30,000 gallons
Train could be 1 mile in length with 100 tankers
Could be carrying 3 MILLION gallons



These tanker fires can not be put out they have to be left to burn out
~ up in smoke!



**We are being railroaded!
“Put through too hastily with improper
evidence”.**

Man only needs 3 things to live.

- ▶ Clean air to breath!
- ▶ Clean water!
- ▶ Dirt!

These 3 most important things could be destroyed if there is a train incident.

What then? You can live without money, oil and gold but you can't live without these 3 things.



Potential Road Closures



Yale Bridge
West Rockton
Moody Road
Cemetery Road
Wishop
Stephens
Knapp
Harrison
Dickenson
Auburn
North Weldon

Cunningham
South Weldon
South Meridian
Montague
Centerville
Simpson
Prairie
Kishwaukee
South Bend
Condon
Friday
Edson

ROADS Continued.

- Who will pay for county roads to be upgraded?
- Longer travel time
- Road closures will affect:
 - First responders
 - Your travel time
 - School bus routes
 - Mail & UPS delivery
 - Garbage routes
- Taxes will go up, because hundreds of home will be devalued
- Safety will be an issue with farm equipment
- Recreation, Cultural and Historic Resources will not be accessible
- Noise and Vibration
- Socio-economics
- Aesthetics

Road Closure Costs = Traffic delays (closing roads), noise, safety and environmental problems.

Benefits = NONE

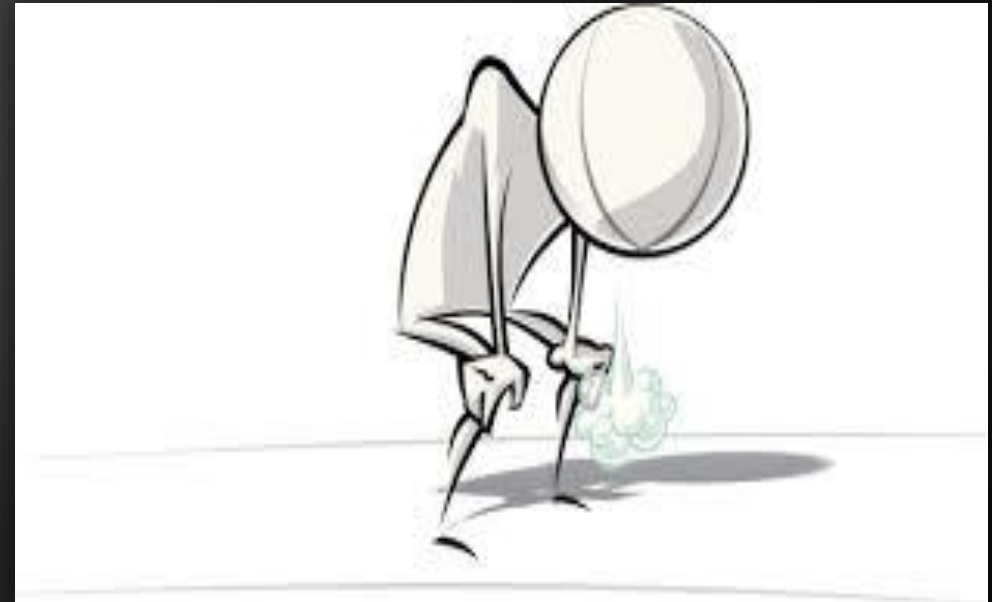
**Thousands of lives
and thousands of
acres will be
destroyed!!**

Public Health Concerns

- **Air Pollution**
- **Climate Change**
- **Noise vibration**
- **Lower property value causing less tax revenue.**
- **Pedestrian Safety**
- **Impacts children's school performance**
- **Ability to sleep or concentrate**
- **Blight**

Respiratory Health Effects:

- ▶ Diesel exhaust from locomotives contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants, carcinogens, ozone smog-forming compounds and fine particular matter (scoot). Exposure to fine particles is known to cause asthma attacks, heart attack, lung cancer, strokes and even premature death.
- ▶ In Illinois alone, it is estimated that diesel exhaust triggers more than 20,000 asthma attacks, causes more than 600 heart attacks and leads to approx. 570 premature deaths each year. Although diesel
- ▶ Pollution is unhealthy for everyone, children, senior, occupational workers and people living with lung disease are especially at risk.



Stansfeld, S.A., B. Berglund, C. Clark, I. Lopez-Barrio, P. Fischer, E. Ohrstrom, M. Haines, J. Head, S. Hygge, I. van Kamp, and B. Berry. (2005). Aircraft and road traffic noise and children's cognition and health: a crossnational study. *The Lancet*, 365:1942-1949.

Lercher, P., G. Evans, M. Meis, and W. Kofler. (2002). Ambient neighbourhood noise and children's mental health. *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 59, 6:380-6.

Save Our Wetlands, Forest Preserves, and Rivers

- Nygren Wetlands
- Severson Dells
- Colored Sands
- Atwood
- Four Lakes
- The Rock, Pecatonica, and the Sugar Rivers
- Raccoon, Rhule, Kent Creeks & many others



Winnebago County is very special.

Special Pond over on Stephens Road

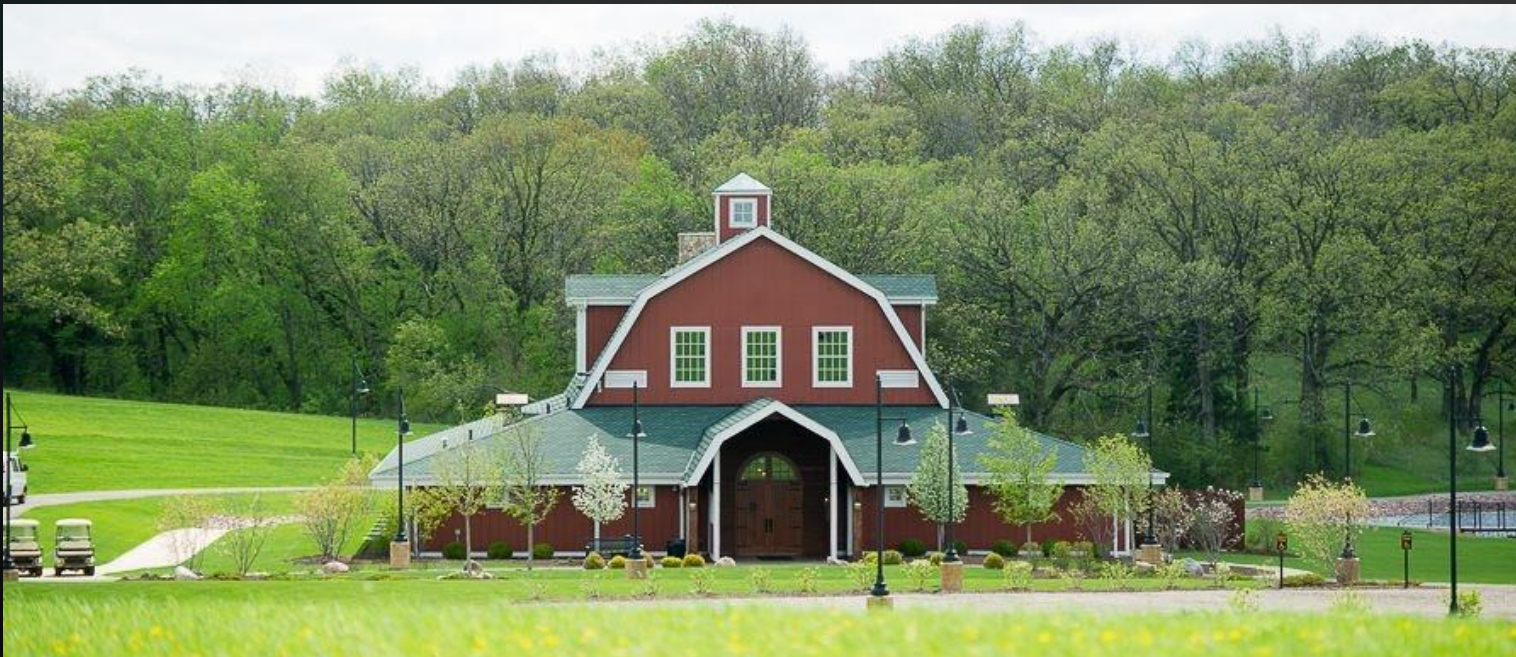
“Rhule Creek is one of the coldest and most unique streams that we have studied. You have a unique resource and a rare opportunity to protect that resource”.

Brian Metzke, Stream Ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey with the University of Illinois.





We have beautiful, peaceful
places in the county, that
people love to visit.



Hunting & Fishing

Much of this land has recreational hunting areas. Many folks just enjoy hiking and bird watching, too. How will we ever hear the song birds over the noise of the train?

Our peace and quiet will be forever gone.



A spill could destroy our aquifer forever! Think of the fish kills. Local tourism could be affected. We have some very special businesses in our area. There are many Indian burial mounds within the county that need to be respected!

The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Just declared an ***endangered*** species.
If you spot this shy snake contact the DNR.



Think how our wildlife will be affected.

- Our deer population just started coming back after CWD.
- Our turkey population will lose their habitat.
- Migrating birds could be disturbed.





LOCAL AFFAIRS

Visit us at:

<http://www.winnebago-boonefarmbureau.org/great-lakes-basin-rail.html>

GREAT LAKES BASIN RAIL PROJECT

- Guidance for Providing Comments
 - Maps
 - Submitted Comments
 - Information
 - Additional Links and Documents
- ...and more!



- Our farms will be dissected into smaller fields.
- Fields will be landlocked and worth nothing.
- The tracks will affect how we farm, too. How much farther will we have to travel?
- How will we get our equipment across the tracks?
- Safety on the roads for all is a must.
- Loss of production in less land farmed.

- People don't realize how big the Ag industry is?
- How many acres of pristine farm land can we afford to lose?
- Farms create employment too!
- What will we do for food once our land is lost?
- Import from other countries like China and Mexico.
- Do we trust their products more than our own?
- We need to be able to feed ourselves!
We need to know what we are eating, too.
- *Farmers are down- to- earth people.*



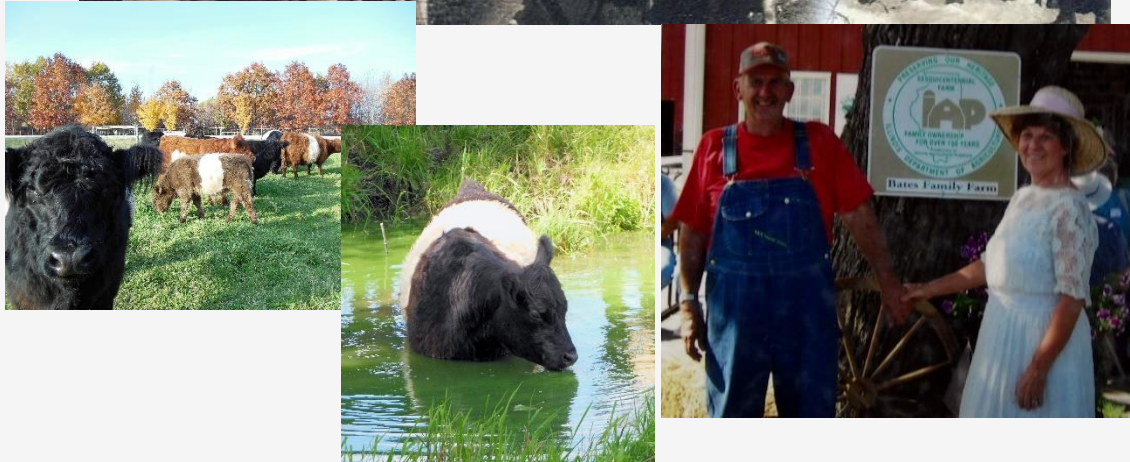
Livestock can not be saved in case of evacuation!!



- Livestock are very sensitive to sounds and disturbances.
- Livestock can not adjust to the stress that these trains would create.
- Their fields are suppose to be safe, their peace fields.



Family Farms will be destroyed!



How can pristine sesquicentennial & centennial farm land being taken away?

Area family farms:

- Bates
- Gummows
- Zahms
- Mohrings
- Shedd

Some have been here for 7 generations and for over 160 years. Several of their ancestors walked all the way from the east to settle these farms.

Our soil is our life! Farms are being cut into pieces that will have fields landlocked.

No Eminent Domain for Private Gain!



Eminent domain.....

is confiscating or condemning someone's home and property.

- We will not be able to live here with the tracks just 70ft. from the house.
- Property values will plummet
- We couldn't sell it if we wanted to.
- Who would buy it?
- With 100 trains a day, how could anyone sleep and cope with that?
- There will be no peace and quiet time in this home. The trains could run every 13 minutes.

How would you like someone to take your home/farm away from you?

GLB Eminent Domain Policy

GLB intends to offer fair prices for the property interests required to construct the railroad and to acquire as much property through negotiated transactions as possible.

However, in some cases, GLB expects it will have to resort to the exercise of eminent domain powers.

GLB should be able to take advantage of "Quick Take" eminent domain procedures in each of its states to keep recalcitrant landowners from holding the entire project hostage.

Under Quick Take, GLB would be allowed to take possession of property needed for the project by paying a court-determined amount, which would be held by the court as the actual value of the property taken is litigated.

Appraisals are required in Indiana and Wisconsin, and as a practical matter they would need to be obtained in Illinois as well to support arguments as to what the preliminary and final valuation of taken property should be.

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/boone/Board.nsf/files/A7YCZL74FC7F/\\$file/Eminent%20Domain%20Procedures_201603111507.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/boone/Board.nsf/files/A7YCZL74FC7F/$file/Eminent%20Domain%20Procedures_201603111507.pdf)

GLB Facts

- ▶ **Great Lakes Basin Railroad** raises false hopes and fears!
- ▶ It's a private group of investors.
- ▶ Frank Patton has no railroad experience and no customers.
- ▶ This is a big risky proposition with our land and livelihoods. They may even try to use my land for utilities, too. The water table is very high here. How can they put tracks on ground like this?

Educate Yourself:

www.blockglbrr.com



- It is the start of all you need to know to get involved.
- Yes, county boards have opposed these tracks.
- This is not the end of the battle.
- It is **imperative** that you take the time to write to DC now!
- We need your help.

We must write to fight!!

The fight is not over. It's in Washington, DC.

Send your comments to:

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

You must use this number: **Docket # FD 35952**

Save a stamp, it's easy to do an E-Filing by going to: www.stb.dot.gov

Use the docket number, Click on the "E-Filing" link then click on "Environmental comments." It only takes a minute or two. You can also read other comments that have been sent too. You can also submit pictures. Thanks so much for helping us all block the GLBRR.

You can ask questions and even call them if you need help at 202-245-0350.

People in Washington have got to hear our pleas. Get in contact with our Senators and State Representatives. We need more time for comments. We have been *railroaded*.

We must write to fight!!

▶
**You can just sit on a log or you can help us.
Stop this train before it lays its ugly tracks.
You can sign a petition or write letters. Thank you.**



God Bless Rockton and Shirland!



Save our towns



Photos by CJLinden



**We do not want GLBRR
built in anyone's
back yard. We do not need it.**

Photos by CJLinden



**Call me what you want
...but I didn't build my
house next to this.
Would you want this
in *your* back yard?**