

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Dave Navecky
RE: Docket No. FD 35952

Date: October 27, 2016

Sir:

We are writing to you about our concerns regarding the Great Lakes Basin Rail Project. We were recently informed in our local town hall meetings, that in September a route was proposed through our county. We also understand this is third route proposed through our county. Guess what?! We don't want it either!

We live in the western side of Winnebago County through which the rail route will pass and angle north into Rock County and on to Milton, WI. It was brought to our attention in the meetings that Rock County residents are against this rail also.

In Winnebago County there are wetlands, migratory bird sanctuaries, and two forest preserves which will be affected. There are three schools that are also of concern. Unfortunately, accidents do happen and who wants a possible chemical spill near a school?! We already had to deal with this problem in a rail accident in the southeast side of our county which resulted in one death and multiple injuries! We don't need any more tracks!

Besides farm lands being cut in two, county roads will also be cut off and rural communities and families will be cut off from ambulance and police accessibility in a timely fashion. This presents a huge safety issue.

The only benefit we see from this rail company is for the owners. They want to use this rail system as a toll route and profit from fees charged railroad companies. Railroads are a necessary part of our country's commerce but not this company.

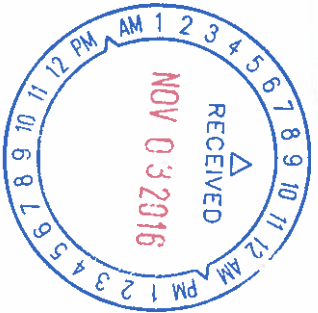
Since this proposal is supposed to alleviate congestion in the Chicago area it is unnecessary. You probably are aware of the plan called Create in Chicago. This plan involves US DOT, IL DOT, the City of Chicago, Metro, Amtrac and all 6 Class I railroads. Millions of dollars have been spent and though not complete, the congestion in Chicago is improving.

It is our hope you will consider everyone's concerns and deny a permit of any kind to this upstart company.

Sincerely,
Raymond & Sandra Harding

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