

October 23, 2016

STB Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing to voice my objection to the Great Lakes Basin Transportation's proposed plan to construct and operate a nearly 270+ mile rail line.

In my research about the project, I have read that your office is the one that will deem "whether or not the proposal is in the public interest." I can assure that it is not. The proposal states that there could be up to 100 trains a day traveling at approximately 70 mph close to people's homes. The safety concern alone should be enough to have this project stopped. The impact it will have on the emergency services abilities to respond to its citizens could be detrimental. It will be nearly impossible for emergency responders to get to residents in timely manner. Farmland will be dissected and made practically impossible to farm, precious wetlands, rivers and creeks could potentially be contaminated by the hazardous materials being transported. From noise pollution to disruption of wildlife I am in awe that someone could think there is any benefit of this project.

In addition to my opposition of the rail line I would also like to express my concern at the lack of opportunity for citizens affected by the new proposed route to voice their opinions in an open forum. There are many questions that are posed in discussions at various community informational meetings that deserve to be heard and answered.

Statements have been made claiming this rail line could transport hazardous materials outside of Chicago making "big safety improvements" for the city. Well, I ask you, why is it okay to risk anyone's safety? We were encouraged to not make these letters personal because this is all just business to those seeking its completion, however, this is personal for more people than will take the time to reach out to you. I ask that you consider the livelihood of those in the communities and don't make this decision without putting yourselves in our shoes.

Sincerely,



Monica Girardin

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