

June 14, 2016

ATTN: Docket # FD 35952

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

Mr. Navecky:

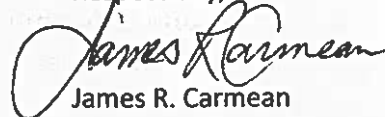
I am writing to express my strenuous opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad project. My home and the four acres upon which it resides are located in Sumner Township in Kankakee County, Illinois. My home and land, along with all those of my neighbors, will be consumed to create the Great Lakes Basin's right of way and rail yard in northern Kankakee County. The rail yard alone will virtually eliminate Sumner Township, Illinois. Just the announcement alone of this project has caused my property value to decrease.

My wife and I are both United States Army retirees. We purchased our quiet, rural property with the intent of living the rest of our lives in tranquility. I served this nation in uniform for thirty-eight and a half years and am a veteran of the Vietnam and Iraq wars, as well as multiple deployments to other troubled locations worldwide. My wife served in the Army for twenty-nine years and she, too, is a Global War on Terrorism veteran. My wife is also rated as 90% disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, while I am rated at 20%. I am deeply disturbed that we may face the possibility of becoming displaced persons and economic refugees at the hands of financial speculators who may well be enabled by an agency of the very government to which we have dedicated nearly the entirety of our adult lives.

And for what, Kankakee's home town newspaper, *The Daily Journal*, in an article by Lee Provost, reported that, "... no major railroad has endorsed this project or even said publicly that they would even use it." Canadian National has its own bypass project underway. Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific, the other two major railroad operators in this region, have publicly stated that they have no interest in or plan to use the Great Lakes Basin Railroad bypass, should it be constructed. The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways already is working on ways to mitigate rail delays in the Chicago area. This project is unnecessary. Should land acquisition move forward, thousands of homes and families, including mine, will suffer for the economic benefit of private parties.

I urge you to disapprove the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Company's proposal. It is an unnecessary project. It is harmful to the private property rights of individual citizens. Finally, it is most assuredly a private business venture for which the use of eminent domain is totally inappropriate.

Respectfully,



James R. Carmean
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
United States Army

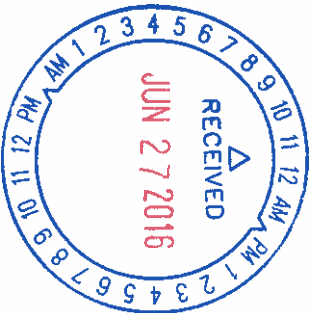


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