

October 16, 2016

Director Victoria Rutson
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Docket No. FD 35952

In light of the fact that there are so many newly affected people due to the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.'s new submitted route, I believe a new commenting period should be officially opened and additional scoping meetings scheduled. I feel a 90 day period should be given to the general public.

Having been a conservation farmer on the affected properties for most of my 87 years, this railroad will deeply affect the no-till practices that I have worked so hard to protect. Putting in this railroad would cause irreparable damage to the land that I call home, not only in my time, but also for future generations. It has taken over 20 years of no-till practices to accomplish the quality of farm ground that deters erosion control, enhances water penetration and increases crop yields.

As well as crossing our farm and many other farms in the area on a slant, our farm and most of these farms are planted with large 24 to 30 row Planters (60 to 90 feet,) sprayed with equipment that have spray booms of 150 feet, and harvested with equipment that takes over 200 feet just to turn around. Also included in (Exhibit A) is the picture of the corner where we would need to plant (obviously not big enough.) The Ogle County Farm Bureau has stated the Rail Road should follow existing roadways and section lines.

Warm regards,

Lowell L. Hayes
Lowell and Jeanne Hayes
12611 East Mowers Road
Kings, Illinois 61068

Jeanne Hayes

Exhibit A



Lowell & Jeanne Hayes
12611 East Mowers Road
Kings, IL 61068

CAROL STREAM IL 601

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