

Mr. Dave Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

Docket No. FD 35952

395 E. Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I am writing to you today about my concerns on the proposed Great Lakes Basin 278 mile railroad. I have many concerns for the general public as well as my own personal concerns.

I am concerned about the environmental impact it will have on the properties that I and others own in Boone County. The proposed railroad will be running through woodland areas that are the habitat of many species of animals. The damage the railroad will cause both to the woodlands and the noise that will come from it will certainly adversely affect the deer, wild turkeys, rabbits and squirrels that live there. The disturbance to our natural wetlands will also pose a threat to the geese, ducks and other waterfowl. It will disrupt the aquatic life and vegetation that many of these animals feed on. The destruction of the natural waterways and field tile will lead to soil erosion and a loss in production from previously farmed land due to flooding and top soil being washed away.

The safety of the people who live and work in Boone County is also a top concern. Ambulance service, law enforcement personnel and the residents of the county will feel several negative effects of the railroad. Ambulances and fire fighters responding to calls on the East side of the tracks will run the risk of the train running through their path causing response time delays. The nearest hospitals on the east side of the railroad are in neighboring McHenry County. So there is the potential for 1st responders to have delays both to a call and then on the return trip transferring a patient. This possibility is very alarming to me. I come from a farming family. We have farm parcels that will be separated by the train tracks. During the course of the day, my 77 year old father, the farm hand and my 26 year old nephew are working on different farms. If one of them was to have an accident or need help, needing to wait for a train to pass could be disastrous. It will be hazardous for older and young drivers alike, traveling thru the rural areas of our county, being unfamiliar with the new train crossings. Statistics say, Main line railroads claim an average of 876 lives a year.

Train derailment should also be taken into consideration when weighing negative effects. A derailment and toxic chemical spill could ruin our aquifer which supplies water to several counties. Our county is not equipped to handle a hazmat disaster of this nature and magnitude.

The loss of prime farmland for growing crops is not all that we lose. We lose farmland to the easement; we lose farmland to construction and heavy equipment usage to build the railway. Our local farmers lose the revenue from the crops they would have planted for years to come. Our community and state lose tax money associated with the selling of crops and the property tax collected on the farms. There is the loss of property value for farmers and homeowners alike that are near the railway. The property value loss will have a trickle-down effect. People will not be as apt to buy property in our county. This in turn will have a negative effect on business sales, leading to loss of jobs and loss of tax base in our community. As a business owner I am concerned about the potential loss of business revenue due to lack of growth and easy access.

Businesses in our county across the country would also be affected by the loss of an estimated 1,000,000,000 truckers that will be taken off the road, no longer hauling freight. The loss of revenue from the fuel they purchase, motor fuel tax collected that enables road improvements, tire sales, oil changes and maintenance would be devastating to businesses.

The idea that a private company has the right to change the legacy of families is ludicrous. Family's losing farms and homes that they worked hard to own and maintain for generations. How is it possible that a private company can create their legacy at the expense of the history of thousands of people?

As a private company, what if Mr. Patton decides after having built this railroad that he wants to take his profits and run, selling out to a foreign company? Once again, more land in the United States that no longer belongs to its people. Mr. Patton intends to ask for an easement of 200 feet with plans to take 50 feet, for the purpose of selling to a utility company of his choice, for his own private company's profit.

The American Dream, the opportunity for prosperity and success achieved through hard work. Who should have the right to deny someone the ability to pass down to their children land that has been in their family for generations? The same land that they and their grandfather's before them worked hard to own, that they nurtured and cultivated, with the fruits of their labor helping to feed a country. Can private business, really steal from people this opportunity? Mr. Patton's company has the right to steal someone's landscape, destroy the land their cattle graze on, steal the view they have of the sun setting over their own field of corn? People who have chosen to live here, who have paid the price in hard work and hard earned dollars to own their land. People who have spent generations investing in and preserving that land are the only people that should have the rights to it!

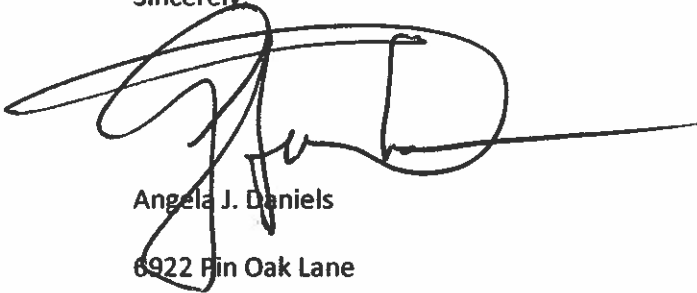
People can and should exercise other options. A. Deny the railway being built. B. Move the railway to an alternate route. I strongly believe denying the railway is the only answer. It is difficult for me to think that moving the railroad into someone else's backyard is a favorable decision. It has been suggested that I-90 corridors could be an alternate route. I would have to weigh that choice if it came to it.

Boone County is a rural area with rural values and has a comprehensive plan in place to protect our values, our land and our industry is farming! We pray you respect our rights!

There's enough on this planet for everyone's needs, but not for everyone's greed. — Gandhi

Land is not a renewable resource.....if we continue to destroy it; a portion of the quote above will no longer be true. **We will not have enough on this planet for everyone's needs.** We will just be left with the greedy people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela J. Daniels', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Angela J. Daniels

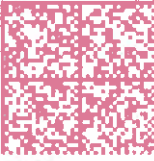
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