

Don & Karen Williams
4769 Yale Bridge Rd
Rockton, IL 61072

October 20th, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

This is a letter in regards to the proposed GLB Railroad, which is slated to go through a corner of our property in Winnebago County, Illinois. SBL docket number FD 35952

First and foremost we would like to see the public comments and scoping meeting reopened for the newly purposed preferred route announced in September 2016.

As a long term resident and business owners in this area, we realize that sometimes difficult and unpopular decisions need to be made. Saying that we urge that no railway be built through this community. We also urge that no railway be built at all. The following are our reasons.

1. Concerns regarding environment impact. The area on our farm sited is in a permanent wetland easement. The surrounding area, though not designated as such have similar soils. Water tables are high in the proposed corridor. Any derailment of hazardous cargo could have huge detrimental effects on the watershed in which we live. All the homes in this are served by well water, if rendered unfit for consumption would create unimaginable hardships for the ourselves and the surrounding home owners. Also this area of the county is part of a non development corridor created by the county's 2030 plan. The sighting of a railway in the area is counterproductive to that and would affect habitat, migration etc. Along with those concern, liability for any issues is not addressed, as per GBL representatives reply taped at a community meeting via Youtube is an item "yet to be determined". So who would shoulder the burden of any clean up should an event arise is not addressed. This areas watershed feed into metropolitan Rockford, who's residents may also feel the effects.

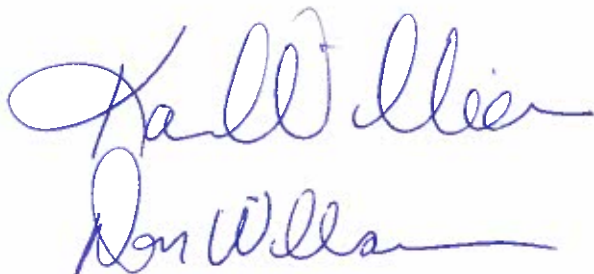
2. The unidentified treatment of existing roadways. Whether certain road will be closed and who has the burden of cost on crossings, is not determined. Also with various road closures, access to vital services; ambulances, fire department and police, is diminished, causing hardships in the areas of health, finances, time lost etc. Also effected would be school districts and any municipality operating in the targeted area. Even roadway maintenance would be impacted. Adding costs to even the most simple tasks.

3. The soils actual inability to sustain the trains. This area has high water tables and sandy soils. The weight, vibration and liquidity of the spoils upon active uses makes this route financially non viable. There is very little heavy soils in this area as well as those to the north and south. We are not soil scientists but have worked this ground for nearly four decades. We have pulled equipment out of what has become virtual quick sand on not only our ground, but the grounds of our neighbors. A true and verifiable environmental impact study would bring many of these issue to light.

4. Lack of transparency of GLB. Non disclosure agreements mean we have no idea who is actually purchasing the land. The historically disproportionately large amount of land effected in the plan, the lack of ties with existing rail providers, and the fact the GLB is a for profit entity manipulating information for its own end makes me unable to support the proposal. Burdens to the taxpayers if certain means of funding come into play is not spelled out and the threat of eminent domain also give us concern. The financial burden to not only land owners, but the community in the whole is noteworthy. Decreased land values and tax revue, social issues as time and effort is put forth to understand all the aspect of proposed project. The historically beautiful areas of our community would be impacted as air, noise, vibration would be at odds with the peace and tranquility valued in this community.

As more information comes to light, the supposed positives to this project become more questionable. Due process is not being served. Information is not forth coming and neither are hard facts. Replies in early public debate do not hold to be true. As in land values are not increasing. We have already seen some of the effects. These are just a few issues that make this project not a positive thing for the Midwest. We hope you will realize all the issues and not support this project.

Don and Karen Williams

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is 'Karen Williams' and the bottom signature is 'Don Williams'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Williams
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Rockville
MD 20872



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