



Gardner-South Wilmington Township High School District 73

500 E. Main St • Gardner, Illinois 60424 • Phone: 815.237.2176 • Fax: 815.237.2842

Michael Perrott

Superintendent/Principal

John Engelman

Dean of Students

Re: Docket Number: FD_35952_0
Great Lake Transportation, Inc. (GLB) Proposed Rail line.

To: Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

July 4, 2016

On behalf of and under the direction of the Gardner South Wilmington High School District 73 (GSW) Board of Education I have prepared this correspondence.

The GSW High School District is located in south east Grundy County, Illinois. After reviewing plans / proposed route for the GLB rail line there are several items that appear particularly disruptive to our county, its residents, families, and our students.

- We are very concerned with the lack of crossings that will be created by the rail line. Shutting down roads and limiting routes to school / home increases already long rural bus routes and creates more times a bus crosses a train track.
- Whenever vehicles cross over rail lines there are safety concerns.
- Increased travel times on buses adds financial liabilities to our school district. Someone has to pay for miles on buses. Our district is already financially stretched.
- The proposed route dissects properties causing increased burdens on our already stressed agricultural community.
 - o Divided properties.
 - o Lack of access to properties.
 - o Difficulties in moving equipment.
 - o Reduce farm property values.
 - o Less property to farm means less income to farm families / our families/ our students.
- Decreased values of agricultural properties damages the finances and morale of our families, school, and community.
- The GLB rail line is NOT good for our community.

The Gardner South Wilmington Board of Education is NOT in favor of Great Lakes Transportation, Inc. forcing the transition / sale of properties for the speculative benefit of the few to the detriment of our community.

Please do not allow this to happen.

Sincerely,

Michael Perrott

Superintendent - Gardner South Wilmington High School District 73