

Docket No. FD 35952

Environmental comment

Attention: Dave Navecky

Contamination of the soil by the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line is a major concern for farmers along the 278 mile long route and farmers on the water shed side of the route. The creosote from the treated rail road ties leaches into the soil and works its way through the ground to the field tiles that carry excess water to the Kankakee River in Illinois and Indiana contaminating both soil and ground and river water. The majority of the tanker cars that will be carrying highly explosive crude oil and other hazardous chemicals and materials across these tracks leak allowing oil and other hazardous chemicals and materials to contaminate the soil and water, too.

Contaminated ground will not grow crops, thus farmers will lose even more revenue as a result of this poorly planned rail line. Not only will farmers lose their valuable cropland that is confiscated by the lost right-of-way, flooding caused by damaged field tiles and the dam the rail bed will cause, but also by soil contamination. Once the soil is contaminated it is a major undertaking to remove the contaminants before it has spread throughout the field tiles and into the water supply.

Every year farmers are feeding more and more people at home and around the world as the world's population grows. Eventually we will lose that ability if more poorly managed and plotted projects steal this productive land and then destroy it. We need to stop projects like GLBR before the unintended consequences destroy our ability to be productive contributors to the need for food.

For these and many other reasons I am asking that the STB deny this project. There is so much at stake that hasn't been considered for a project like this that can result in serious damages to be fast tracked. There are plenty of other rail lines both active and abandoned that already exist the need for a new one doesn't seem reasonable.

Thank you.

Patricia Mussman

Unincorporated West Creek Township

Lowell, Indian