

Twin Creeks Farm
A/an W. Blackford
9318 Blaine Road
Capron, Illinois 61012-9748

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 201423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I am writing on behalf of **DOCKET NO. FD 35952, GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION CORP, LLC PROJECT**, which is proposed to come through our county of Boone and Township of Leroy.

We respectfully request that the STB deny the above referenced project for the following reasons:

I am very concerned about this project. My family has lived in this area, since 1964. We have worked hard to be good stewards of the land and the environment. I believe this projected Railroad would severely harm, both the environment, and drainage of the affected properties involved in the project.

At dusk and dawn, each year, in the spring and the fall, I have witnessed as many as 20 White-Tail deer, cross through this property, on their way to drink from a creek, which would be on the opposite side of the railroad. I have also witnessed Wild Turkeys, crossing to this same creek. This project would interfere with their natural instincts, and habitat. I have farmed all my life, and have been happy to share the bounty of the land with any of the wildlife, that deems to use it.

I also am concerned about the natural drainage of this area. I feel that it would be severely affected by this obstruction. It appears to me that the railroad bed would cause several parts of adjoining fields to flood during heavy rains, due to changes in the natural surface water flow, which would create issues, such as stagnant water, mosquitos, and undesirable plant growth. Tiles would be crushed by this project and very farmable land would become unusable.

Water quality could also be affected by this project. Our water table in this area is very close to the surface, and could easily be contaminated by any type of drainage damage, spill, accident, or pipeline that might be associated with this project.

I also have concerns about Roads being dead-ended or stubbed at the tracks. In many cases (as well as my own) this would result in hardships getting to the other parts of their properties, and adding many extra miles just getting to nearby towns. Emergency services, such as rescue squads, Sheriff's department, and Volunteer Fire Departments, response times being slowed getting to a rural home, could mean life and death in a few cases!!

My final concern with this project is the Quality of life issue. Part of a farming area's attraction is the quiet rural life and the environment. As I mentioned at the start of this letter, the environmental impact of this project is of extreme concern to me. I believe the noise and disruption of this project would do grave damage to the environment of this area.

Therefore, in closing, I again respectfully ask that the STB, deny GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION CORP, LLC PROJECT.

We thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns.

Appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan W. Blachford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Alan W. Blachford

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Velma Blachford". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Velma Blachford

**OPPOSITION, OBJECTION, AND CALL FOR ACTION AGAINST THE
GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC. RAILROAD
DOCKET NO. FD 35952**

To: The Surface Transportation Board ("STB"):

As a resident and/or landowner in Boone County, I, the undersigned, oppose and object to the construction of the rail line proposed by Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc. ("GLBT").** I urge and request the STB pursue the "no-action alternative" of denying the petition or application of GLBT due to the negative environmental, safety, social, and economic impact the rail line would have on me and all citizens that own property and/or reside near the proposed path of the rail line. The claimed (but unproven and unspecified) efficiencies possibly gained from the rail line are far outweighed by the loss of prime farmland, impact on the safety of local residents, and significant changes to the local environment and landscape.

I request and call upon the STB to ensure the scope of the Environmental Impact Study ("EIS") associated with the project be as broad and stringent as possible, and include investigation of and weighing the relative impact of the proposed rail line's claimed economic efficiencies against the enormous tangible and intangible costs that would be imposed on residents and owners of property that fall on or near the path of the rail line.

I further request and call up on the STB to deny any exemption from GLBT filing a formal application to ensure additional public comment is allowed prior to any approval of rail line construction.

**The railway project as proposed by GLBT, recognized as Docket No. FD 35952, consisting of a rail line of approximately 278 miles in length, from La Porte, Indiana, through the State of Illinois (including Boone County) to a point in the Town of Lima in Rock County, Wisconsin.

June 6, 2016
DATE

Le Roy
TOWNSHIP

Velma Blackford
SIGNATURE

VELMA BLACKFORD
PRINTED NAME

9332 Blaine Road
ADDRESS

CAPRON, IL 61012
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

Concerned Citizens of Boone County, Illinois

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Alan W. Blachford
SIGNATURE

9318 Blaine Rd
ADDRESS

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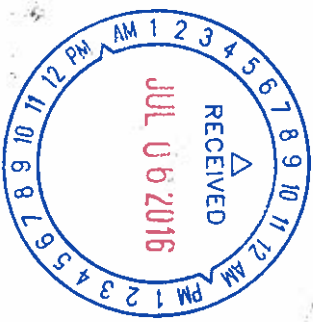
Alan W. Blachford
PRINTED NAME

Capron, IL 61012
CITY, STATE AND ZIP

Concerned Citizens of Boone County, Illinois



Alan Blachford
9318 Blaine Rd.
Capron, IL 61012-9748



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Dave Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

ATTN: DOCKET No. FD 35952

395 E. Street SW

Washington, D.C. 20543-0001

