

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Docket# 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dec 18, 2016

Re. GLB railroad proposal, docket #35952

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

As chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, I believe you understand the GLB proposal, Docket # 35952, will aggressively disrupt surface transportation for tens of thousands of people by closing county and township roads in three states, to accommodate a private railroad no major freight carrier has agreed to use. All of the affected people in these states will see their surface access to medical, law enforcement and fire protection disrupted and, in our area, even an elementary school will be cut off from these critical services. Every road that would be closed by GLB was put where it is for a reason, and those reasons haven't changed. The only thing new here is a profit scheme, backed by anonymous private investors, who see an opportunity to accumulate even more wealth by moving dangerous cargo over fragile lands, disrupting lives, diminishing property values and complicating access to critical services for hard working tax payers who have less influence.

In our area the water table is so close to the surface that mere construction of the rail road could contaminate the aquifers, not to mention what a toxic spill might do. Also, within the hazard zone are wetlands, one of which is an annual stopover point for the endangered whooping cranes. This is a poorly thought out scheme, made by people with no railroad experience and no apparent regard for either the lives, or fragile ecosystems, they would disrupt to enable their private enterprise. Its a potentially disastrous idea, and it is only possible with your compliance.

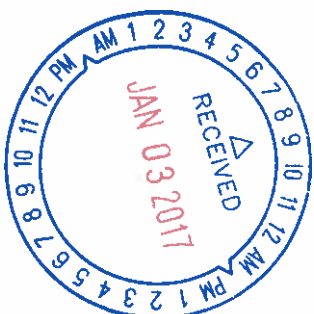
The overwhelming majority of private citizens, as well as local and county governments in the path of this scheme object to it. We rely on the federal government for protection against just this sort of dangerous and disruptive intrusion in our lives. In fact, against the influence of wealth, you are the only protection common people have. Denying a permit to GLB causes no harm to any citizen or industry, since there is no demonstrable need for a new railroad in the first place. Alternately, granting this permit clearly harms tens of thousands, to profit a few. In the interest of the citizens, please deny the GLB permit.

Sincerely



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