

37 S. East Ave
P.O. Box 198
Amboy, IL 61310
Phone: (815) 857-3531
Fax: (815) 857-3532
E-mail: leecfb@comcast.net
Website: www.leecfb.org

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FB 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Submitted as Public Comment Regarding Proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Project

The Lee County Farm Bureau appreciates the opportunity to submit this written comment to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) regarding the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail (GLBR) project. The Lee County Farm Bureau is a non-profit voluntary membership organization representing over 2200 member families. Some of our member families will be directly, or indirectly, impacted by this project.

The Lee County Farm Bureau acknowledges that there are challenges with the current transportation system, specifically as it relates to the congestion in the Chicago area. However, we request that the STB to give full review to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad project, and deny the GLBR project an exemption from that review, should it be requested. A project of this scope and impact should be fully examined to ensure it provides more benefits than harm to the effected communities and economy.

There are a number of areas of concern regarding the proposed GLBR that should be scrutinized by the STB. The Lee County Farm Bureau asks that the STB fully examine the need for this project. It is our understanding that efforts are currently under way to decrease the congestion of rail traffic through Chicago, and that to date, no major rail company has committed to using the proposed GLBR.

We have concerns about the negative impact that the proposed GLBR would have on the affected farmland in Lee County. If approved, GLBR will cause farm parcels to be severed and landlocked. The GLBR will adverse economic impact on property values, and farm income. We ask that you also take into consideration the environmental impact on drainage and on quality of life for residents due to the noise and vibration caused by the rail. Safety concerns have arisen for residents and motorists in affected areas including increased emergency response time, and increased potential for accidents due to rail crossings and derailments.

The Lee County Farm Bureau also has serious concerns over GLBR expressed intent to add a 50 foot utility corridor. GLB is not a public utility and the STB should exclude any requests for non-rail uses from its consideration.

The property rights of our members is a high priority for the Lee County Farm Bureau. If the proposed GLBR project was to be approved, the lives and businesses of our members in the impacted areas would be forever changed. We hope that this is not taken lightly, and that all potential impacts are fully examined before a decision is reached on GLBR.

Sincerely,

Don Meyer, President
Lee County Farm Bureau.

Mission Statement

"To be a positive voice for agriculture through leadership and education to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of our members and community"

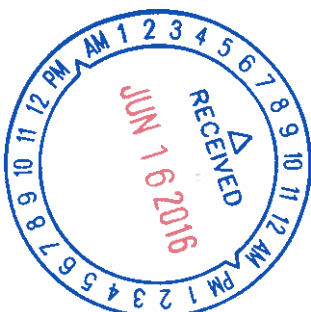
Lee County Farm Bureau
37 S East Ave
PO Box 198
Amboy IL 61310-0198

PEORIA IL 616

10 JUN 2016 PM 2 T



Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FB 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



204230001

