

July 14, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: DOCKET No. FD-35952

RE: THE AMOUNT OF PRIVATE GRADE RAIL ROAD CROSSING AND SAFETY

I am gravely concerned with the multitude of private rail road grade crossings necessary. I own farm land near Goodfarm Road and Maher Road in Gardner, Illinois. In the few mile area of the farmland I own alone, I observe five farms that would have land locked property. These farms will require private grade rail road crossings on their land. If there are so many, just in this one picture, I can't imagine how many are necessary for the entire project. When I look at that picture, and in spring, summer and fall, I see so many large lumbering tractors with awkward machinery hooked up lumbering across, back and forth, so many times a day. These are driven by 80 plus year olds all the way down to 16 year olds (really even younger). I physically shudder to think of so many trying to judge oncoming trains at any speed let alone a high speed train.

Please do not shrug off the fact that farmers will need to cross these rails with machinery. It is a recipe for disaster. This plan cuts through so many farms and leaves many land locked property. Mr. Frank Patton in his question and answer session in Morris, IL that I attended, callously shrugged off this danger. He literally said if someone wants to kill themselves I cannot stop them. It is infuriating at his lack of concern for our farmers.

We ask you to numerate where properties will be landlocked and the needed safety measures that must be taken. They cannot just be burdened onto the shoulders of weary small farmers who are doing everything in their means to keep their farms going.

Sincerely,



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