

May 10, 2017

Mr. Ken Blodgett,

I am writing to voice my displeasure with the proposed GLB railroad that runs through southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and Indiana. I reside in Rockton, IL and the railroad is slated to run within a 1/2 mile of my home. Several things that are concerning to me is, first and most importantly being life safety of ten of thousands of residents along its path. With the 261 mile track there will be many roads that will be closed to normal everyday drivers and residents will have to find alternative routes. Perhaps some of the most important people that will have to find new routes will be the very men and women that protect these communities and provide police, fire and EMS to these areas. With some of these roads that are slated to close, it could add upwards of 15 minutes to response times for some areas. Add that to in some areas, a response time of already 20 minutes and it could mean life or death in some cases. As a FF/Paramedic I find these numbers to be alarming and downright unacceptable. Which response time would you rather have if faced with the scenario? Better yet if a family member was in need? A 20 minute or a 35 minute, if crews have to find new routes to your home?

My second concern is the property value of tens of thousands of homes that will decrease if this railroad were to go through. I purchased my home back in 2015 and shortly after is when the proposed route came about. It is very concerning to me because I know that when I go to sell my home I will not be able to get anywhere near what I paid for it 2 years ago. If you were to drive down the proposed route within 5 miles on either side you can see the displeasure in the communities and how they do not want the railroad. Many of these citizens have the same concerns as mine, when it comes to home values and property taxes. You know as well as I do that property taxes will not go down either.

These are just 2 of the reasons that I am strongly against the proposed GLB railroad. I could go on for another 3 pages, but I won't. I would like to thank you for your time into looking into this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Blodgett', written in a cursive style.

CANON STREET 11.001

21 MAY 2017 PM 5 1



Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Docket #FD35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



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