

6 Ventnor Ct.
Hebron, IN 46341
May 19, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I have grave concerns regarding the route of the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line as it passes through Indiana.

The following are my concerns:

It will interrupt and destroy drainage, both locally per acre on farm fields and throughout the watershed:

Building the train tracks and running heavy locomotives and trains across these tracks will crush field tiles and drainage systems in farm fields. It will also separate and block system waterways in connecting fields. Lowering field tile systems in farm fields to meet the systems on the other side of the tracks won't work --- water won't flow uphill.

Watershed issues are of great concern:

Since the proposed tracks are to run almost parallel to the continental divide, measures would have to be taken into consideration to continue to have water throughout this large watershed continue to run to the Kankakee River and thus continue to the Gulf of Mexico. These tracks should not be on the north side of the Kankakee River.

Flooding issues need to be considered:

I grew up in a small town in Kansas. The state highway department decided to build a bypass around the town. In doing so, the highway was built up significantly over the level of the existing land. This hundred mile "dike" was the only reason the town flooded after a heavy rain. Professional engineers failed to create enough culverts and places for water to escape from the surrounding dike. A great portion of the town was under water. Years ago, part of the town of Highland, Indiana was submerged because "professional" engineers miss-measured the dike at the Little Calumet River. "Professional" engineers failed to take into account the weight of the cars in at new Grant Park parking garage in Chicago, Illinois. "Professional" engineers failed to properly design the Cline Avenue overpass in East Chicago, Indiana. I realize we all make mistakes, but professional people can't always be counted on to plan a correct route.

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These proposed tracks will create dikes which will exacerbate flooding, drainage, and water issues.

Please take these above concerns into consideration and relocate the tracks away from Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana.

Regards,



Dorothy Michalak



Ms. Dorothy Michalak
6 Ventnor
Hebron, IN 46341

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