

SUMNER TOWNSHIP
9315 N. 8000 E. ROAD
GRANT PARK, IL 60940
815-937-1997

EI-24577

LAWRENCE K. OHM
Supervisor

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Dave Navecky
Attn: Docket No. FD 35952
395 F Street
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

We are commenting on the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line.

It seems as though a great amount of thought and planning has gone into this project, even though it has only come to our attention in the last two months. It seems almost impossible that such a large scale project could be proposed with only a short period of time for the impacted persons and communities to respond. We have knowledge that many governmental bodies have been notified of the project and yet the body most effected, Sumner Township, has not been notified?

As the only governmental body in Sumner Township, where the majority of the "rail yard" is proposed, we have some questions and concerns that seemingly have not been disclosed:

There are two cemeteries and a church in the "rail yard"; what provisions have been allowed for these?

What provisions have been made for the protection of existing drainage infrastructure, including drainage tiles (which are an important facility of continued agricultural use of the adjoining lands)?

What protections will be maintained and enforced as to not impeding the natural flow of surface water?

Since there is no public water system or wastewater system in the "rail-yard" footprint, what provisions have been made for providing public water to the service area and removal of the wastewater?

It would seem that such a large area is being used for the "rail yard" that there is a large concern for surface water pollution; what controls will be implemented to provide for containment, treatment and removal of storm water?

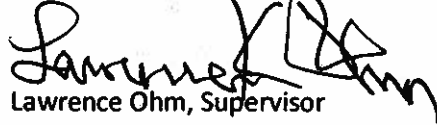
The north – south secondary roads are very heavily traveled for commuting as well as agricultural movement of machinery, supplies and grain. What provisions will be made to allow access across the "rail-yard"?

The proposed "rail-yard" is many times larger than any other in the world, what other projects and/or uses are being contemplated? The answer to this question should be known before authorizing such a project.

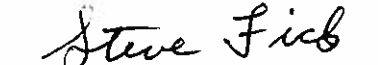
Our area has often been referred to as "being south of Route 80" and not worthy of any concerns; we value our way of life and our "rural" values and do not want to see those values flippantly discarded.

Sincerely,

Sumner Township Board

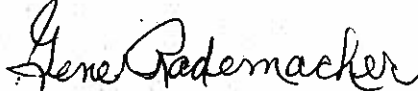

Lawrence Ohm, Supervisor


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Mardale Ekhoft, Trustee

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