

Yellowhead Township

106 East Curtis Street

Grant Park, IL 60940

815-465-6308

Joseph Fetcho

Supervisor

Surface Transportation Board

ATTN: Dave Navecky

Docket No. FD 35952

395 F Street

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

We are sending our comments on the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line.

We would first like to express our strongest opposition to any further planning or construction of the proposed railroad project. The environmental negative impact alone should be enough to stop any further consideration or land acquisition for this project. In addition there have been no commitments from any of the major railroads that this proposed railroad would become part of their routings.

There seems that there has been a great deal of time planning this project, however it has only come to the attention of the citizens of Yellowhead Township within the last few months. It seems nearly impossible that such a large scale project is being proposed with a very short period of time for the communities impacted to respond. We have knowledge that many government bodies have been notified of the project and yet Yellowhead and Sumner Townships, the bodies most effected, have not been notified!

As we represent the concerns of our citizens within Yellowhead Township, were a large portion of the "rail yard" is proposed, we have some questions and concerns:

- **What provisions are being made to allow access for our current north – south roads to cross the proposed rail? It has been proposed that there would not be any crossing**

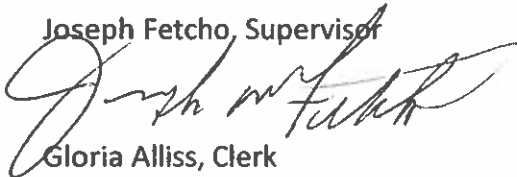
installed in our area. This would cause around 16 dead end roads. That will drastically affect our large agriculture community in being able to get equipment to their farms not to mention the huge obstacle for emergency vehicles!

- What provisions are being made for the existing drainage infrastructure? Again this would severely impact our farm ground in the area.
- How will this impede the natural flow of our surface water? Who will maintain and enforce this?
- With this being a rural area there are no water or waste water systems in the rail yard area. What is being done to make sure the run off from the rail yard is properly held back, treated and removed? Not just allowed to run onto our fields.
- This proposed "rail-yard" is one of if not the largest in the world. Why so big and what is it to be used for? How much hazards material or explosive material is going to be stored here? All of this should be explained to all of our residents before any authorizing should even be considered.

We may be a small community with a lot of open area for a rail but it is not vacant and our farm ground is vital to way of life.

Sincerely,
Yellowhead Township Board

Joseph Fetcho, Supervisor



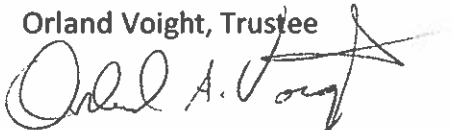
Gloria Alliss, Clerk



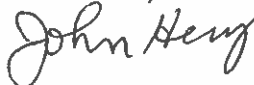
Jeremy Roberts, Highway Commissioner



Orland Voight, Trustee

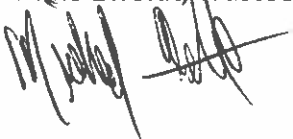


John Herz, Trustee



James Phillips, Trustee

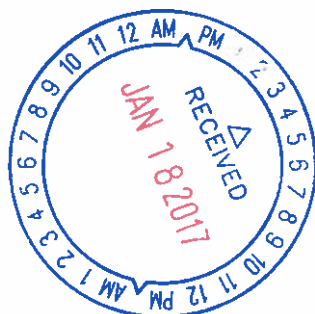
Mike Ewoldt, Trustee



YELLOWHEAD TOWNSHIP

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