

MR DAVE NAVECKY
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E. STREET, SW
WASHINGTON DC 20423-0001

REF DOCKET No. FD 35952

I KNOW THAT IT IS LATE, BUT,
HAS THE GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION RAIL LINE
BY PASS EVER CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING FROM IT'S
STARTING POINT?

FROM ITS STARTING POINT, PROCEED
SOUTH, THROUGH HANNA INDIANA, AND AT SOME POINT,
SOUTH OF HANNA, PROCEED SOUTHWEST TO WHEATFIELD,
WHERE IT COULD TIE INTO AN NS (NORFOLK SOUTHERN)
MAIN WHICH COULD THEN TAKE THE TRAINS IN TO ILLINOIS.
TO TOWNS LIKE MOMENCE AND AS FAR WEST AS
STREXTON.

IT WOULD ALLOW "TIE INS" TO OTHER
MAIN LINES, OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC OR CANADIAN
NATIONAL, FOR EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH BOUND TRAFFIC.

THIS ROUTE WOULD ALSO MINIMISE
THE DISPLACEMENT OF BUSINESSES AS WELL AS
RESIDENCE, NOT TO SPEAK OF ROADS, BRIDGES
AND GRADE CROSSINGS THAT WOULD NOT HAVE TO
BE ALTERED.

THERE ARE SO MANY ADVANTAGES TO
TIEING INTO THIS MAIN LINE IN WHEATFIELD, BY
THE SCHAFER POWER STATION

THANK YOU
Gerald S Tomecko
10652 SCHWEDEN PL
ST. JOHN IN. 46373-8829

ENCLOSED INFO - RESPONSE FROM CONGRESSMEN VISLOSKY

PETER J. VISCLOSKY
1ST DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER, DEFENSE
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
CONGRESSIONAL STEEL CAUCUS
VICE CHAIRMAN
U.S. HOUSE LAW ENFORCEMENT
CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1401

2328 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1401
(202) 225-2461

7895 BROADWAY, SUITE A
MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410
(219) 795-1844

Call Toll Free
1 888 423 7383

INTERNET:
<http://visclosky.house.gov>

June 13, 2016

Mr. Gerald S. Tomecko
10652 Schneider Place
Saint John, Indiana 46373

Dear Gerald:

Thank you for contacting me in regard to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT) rail line bypass. I appreciate hearing from you.

Specifically, you requested the opportunity to meet to discuss the route proposed by GLBT. Further, you offered to share your proposals to modify this route, based upon your professional experience, which will prove to be less disruptive to residents and farmers living in south Lake County.

I am always happy to take the opportunity to meet with constituents of Indiana's First Congressional District to discuss national and local issues. Please note, however, as this proposed business venture is a private enterprise, and as a federal representative I am unable to solicit the individuals associated with GLBT to offer alternatives to the company's proposal.

I understand your concerns and would offer that this proposed project is subject to all federal and state environmental reviews and permitting prior to any possible construction occurring. Please note there is no federal funding associated with the construction of this project. I am, however, well aware of the concerns expressed by residents and public officials alike regarding this project.

As you are aware, on March 18, 2016, the STB issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). STB acknowledges the construction and operation of GLBT's proposed freight rail line potentially will result in significant environmental impacts and as such, the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) determined an EIS will be required, as per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The meetings held in April throughout the three affected states are part of the EIS process, as the first stage of the EIS process is scoping. All interested and potentially affected stakeholders will have the ability to provide comments during this process. Scoping is an open process for determining the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. The STB notes that in addition to comments on the Draft Scope of Study, interested parties are also encouraged to comment on potential alternative routes for the proposed freight rail line. At the conclusion of the scoping period, OEA will issue a Final Scope of Study for the EIS. It is anticipated the Class One railroads will offer their opinions as a part of this process.

Upon the issuance of the Final Scope of Study, OEA will prepare a Draft EIS for the project. The Draft EIS will address the environmental issues and concerns identified during the scoping process and assess and compare potential alternatives including the no-action alternative. The Draft EIS will also contain OEA's preliminary recommendations for environmental mitigation measures. Upon completion of the Draft EIS, the document will be made available for review and comment by the public, government agencies, and other interested parties. Prior to the issuance of a Final EIS, all comments made during the public review will need to be addressed and documented.

Traditionally, a Draft EIS takes approximately 18 to 24 months to prepare, but may also take longer to develop depending upon the magnitude of the project scope. Any construction related activities during this study period would be in violation of federal regulations. Please note that the STB will consult with all appropriate federal agencies that may have jurisdiction by law.

You may wish to share your alternatives regarding this project with the STB. Recently, the STB extended the comment period an additional month in order to provide the public ample time to submit comments. If you were unable to attend any of the scheduled public sessions, you may submit comments either by mail or electronically no later than **July 15, 2016**. Written comments may be sent to:

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

If you prefer to file comments electronically, you may access the STB website, located at **www.stb.dot.gov**, and select the "E-FILING" link on the home page, then select "Environmental Comments." According to the STB, log-in accounts are not needed to file environmental comments electronically, and comments may be typed into the text box provided or attached as a file. Please note that you must refer to **Docket No. FD 35952** in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board.

Again, thank you for contacting me. If you are in need of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Elizabeth Johnson, Director of Projects and Planning, in my Merrillville District Office at 219-795-1844.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

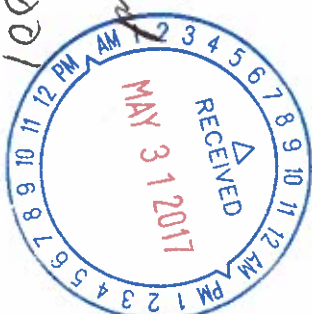
PJV:ej



Jerry Tomecko
10652 Schneider Pl.
Saint John, IN 46373

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15 MAY 2017 PM 7 L



MR DAVE NAVECKY
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