

To: Ken Blodgett
 Surface Transportation Board
 DOCKET # FD 35952
 395 E Street S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Jan. 12, 2017

From:
 SHARL CRANDALL
 6817 Freepoint Rd.
 Rockton, IL
 61072

Dear Sir,

I, again, express my opposition to the proposed GZBT railroad.

You already have on file volumes of opposition statements listing the many reasons railroad would be detrimental to the land, environment, landowners and residents all along this proposed route.

Chicago sees no benefit to this project, does not want it and states opposition to the building of it. States and Counties along the proposed route oppose it.

It is purely for the "H.A.P.E." of GZBT reaping profits through the use and abuse of eminent domain.

I have enclosed a video for your review to illustrate just one of the reasons this railroad poses a threat to the peace of the river valley where I reside. We love and strive to preserve this area for future generations. Please watch this video and also pass it on to Victoria Rutson of the office of environmental analysis.

GZBT's must be denied for so many reasons. There are no valid reasons to approve it.

PLEASE. Please, listen to the people and deny this plan. It is truly the right thing to do.

Sincerely, Sharl Crandall

Sing out against toll railroad

DOCKET #
FD 35452

Jon Mitchell said it many years ago: "Pave paradise, put up a parking lot." GLB wants to replace it with a railroad! I moved to this area 14 years ago to prepare my paradise for retirement. I thank God, every night for the blessing of being able to live in a pristine rural area, where even with my poor hearing, I can still hear car tires on the road over a mile away.

At 1,500 acres, GLB wants a rail yard five times larger than any other. Could this be a land grab for close proximity to a Peotone airport? For what? GLB has stated that they cannot provide 70 mph service throughout the line and there will be delays through the system and the yard.

The Chicago terminal authorities are addressing the current rail situation, thereby diminishing any benefit this proposal

would bring except to the investors of this project! That is, of course, if anyone will use this new railroad. Several rail lines have stated that they will not. To date, it seems as if GLB is trying to have the people and the government pay for their planning. They are dealing with generalizations and suppositions and looking to us to do their homework. For this reason alone, I charge the Surface Transportation Board to deny this proposal!

Let me assure you that this project will not come to fruition without the use of eminent domain. If it was for national security or to unite the growing nation, as was the original intent, I still wouldn't like it but at least I could understand it. This is absurd!

To add insult to injury, they want the

world's largest quiet zone railroad, not for our benefit, but for theirs. The local county is responsible for installation, maintenance and repair of all quiet zone crossings. This money will come from the state. Really? Illinois does not have the money it needs to sustain itself now. And where does the state get its funds? Oh yeah, from us!

The crossings also, bring the burden of liability which will raise our insurance costs. Couple this with the loss of revenue from seized lands, and it's easy to see the negative impact it will have throughout its entirety. We should endure this why? For an unknown private entity? Do we not have the right to know who our assailant is? Yes, I said assailant, for this is truly an assault on our personal freedom, our property and our way of life!

For all we know, the backers of this proposal could be politicians who are illegally or at least immorally abusing the trust of the people they are supposed to represent. In light of the fast-track waiver given by the STB, how can we not suspect insider influence in this matter?

I strongly urge the STB to stop this nonsense and outright deny this proposal! I also, implore our elected officials to do their job and represent the people who elected them. I am part of a grass roots organization that will not disappear and will continue to actively oppose this project as long as it exists. No stall tactic of a "temporary suspension" of the EIS will side rail us.

PAUL J. GASPAR
MANTENO

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

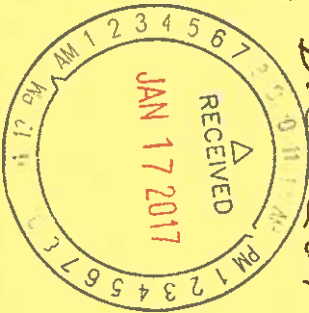
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