

TRI-COUNTY SNOWMOBILE ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 304
Byron, IL 61010



Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

December 12, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to Docket Number FD35952, we request a 'no action option' be taken towards GLB's application for a new rail line that would pass through Northern Illinois.

The Tri-County Snowmobile Alliance represents 11 clubs with approximately 500 member families in Winnebago, Lee, Ogle, and Stephenson counties. The clubs install, maintain and insure the public use trail system to promote safe snowmobiling.

We oppose the proposed rail for the following impacts;

The proposed rail crosses this trail system in at least 9 locations. This interference would cause trail closures as there would be no way to create safe rail crossings for snowmobiles.

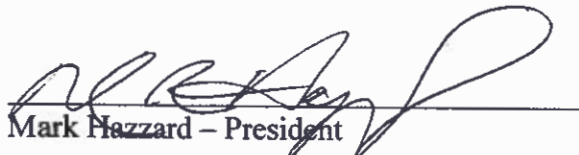
Roadway and trail closures would impact the response time of emergency vehicles to accident scenes and to medical facilities.

In severe winter storm emergencies snowmobilers assist with stranded motorists and medical emergencies. The trail and roadway closures would negatively affect the ability of snowmobilers to assist in those times of need.

Snowmobiling has an economic impact of approximately \$81.6 million dollars in Illinois. This new rail line would have significant effects on the established snowmobile trail system and the local and state economies.

Thank you for the consideration in this matter

Respectfully,


Mark Hazzard – President


Drew Goeke – Vice President


Stephanie Steward – Treasurer


Ron Ulrich – Secretary

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Docket # FD 35952
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