

Dear Mr. Dave Navecky,

I am writing this letter to signify my opposition of the Great Lakes Basin Transportation proposal by Fran Patton. I will try to keep my focus on the things that STB uses in its decision. My personal feelings may come up from time to time in the letter, so please accept my apologies.

Safety concerns are impact on global warming and pollution to the area. While Mr. Patton states the carbon foot print would be reduced from that of the current foot print left by trucks, the fact remains that there would be trucks still on the road. Now let us suppose that all of the trucks were eliminated. What would happen to all the owners and drivers? This would greatly increase the unemployment rate with countless jobs lost. The economy would also suffer and cause the inability of those affected to pay their loans and make purchases.

The possibility of train derailments must also be addressed. The toxic substance that may be carried by their trains could leak into lakes, rivers, and other water sources. For example, wells possibly causing multiple illnesses with possible death to wildlife and residents of the area. The possibility of derailment cannot be discounted by the statement by Mr. Patton that all tracks will be new. The fact remains that the trains traveling on these tracks are old. Even if both tracks and trains are all new there are still various other possibilities for derailment.

Another safety concern is local flooding of the area. The farmers have countless drain tiles in the land. These could be destroyed by the construction of train tracks. The result could lead to multiple properties suffering huge financial loss thru flooding and also loss of crops.

The stagnant water from the ditches on the side of the railroad tracks could lend a hand to the increase of mosquito populations that carry diseases. For example, West Nile and Zika viruses, among others. The West Nile can lead to hospitalizations and possibly death, which puts a greater impact on the health care industry that is already in trouble. The Zika virus is causing birth defects.

Disruption and delays of emergency vehicles will surely be an issue with the 110 trains per day.

Land use disruption of crops and live stock. The tracks will split many parcels causing farmers increase in labor, time, and money. While having to find alternate paths to their fields, leading to loss of crops.

Recreational activities will also be affected. R/2 increase in noise and vibration from trains. I own horses and they are very sensitive to loud noises. I could be badly injured or killed while riding, should this occur. There are many people in this rural area that own and ride horses. This would cause a significant reduction in the quality of our lives.

Biological resources can be affected, as I stated earlier in the letter. Two additional points should be made. First, the bald eagle, nests along the shores of the Kankakee River and Buckley Homestead. This provides sanctuaries for countless wild life and recreational activities for visitors. Should there be a contamination of waters, the majestic, protected, and symbol of our freedom could be placed in jeopardy.

Air quality and climates will be affected R/2 countless delays at R/R crossings. Cars lined up waiting for trains to pass. Most people leave their cars running to promote

personal comfort. The emission from all these vehicles will greatly impact the environment.

Noise and vibration impacts, I have addressed my personal points earlier in this letter but schools and libraries could also be affected.

Buckley Homestead is a Historical Park that was donated in 1977 to Lake County Parks and Recreational Department. There are multiple historic buildings on the property. There are many animals that live at the farm. The peace and tranquility of the area could be greatly affected.

Mr. Patton wants to give all land owners \$20K for an easement on their property. I ask what good does that \$20K do if our land can no longer be used to our discretion. The property values will plummet, because who wants to live by a railroad with over 110 trains per day passing.

I moved out to this area over 10 years ago to get away from the concrete jungle and overcrowding of Lake Count, Indiana. I used my life savings to build my 10 acre horse barn and live my dream! I made many sacrifices to do this with the dream that I could retire and enjoy my hobby farm. I am now retired, therefore, will never have the finances necessary to buy another farm and rebuild what I currently have.

In closing I have a sign that hangs above my doors to the barn and pastures that say, "Life is not measured by the breathes that you take, but by the moments that take your breath away." Looking at open land and my horses provides that. Freight trains are not a welcome part of that picture.

Please, I implore you; do not take away our way of life in this peaceful area.

Sincerely,
Janice Mize
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Surge Transportation Board
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