

Hello, I would like to talk about a place called camp Shaw. For all kids 8 to 18 camp shaw is an amazing place that allows kids to be themselves and truly accepted while having the most fun that can be had in the secluded nature that the camp has to offer.

The railroad track that is being proposed will destroy a lot of the nature that us kids enjoy there. I am Jacek Kulak, 16, and I'm going to try to be a counselor at camp next year. One activity that will most likely be gone if the railroad track gets built is sleeping under the stars. There is a large field next to the woods that we all sleep in for a night and it is beautiful! The river can be heard gently flowing in the background and the trees can also be heard rustling. That's how it is while we sleep and when we wake up, but if a train is going by every 20 minutes, shaking the ground and making lots of rail noise, much of the nature that we enjoy will be killed and it will easily leave over 100s of families devastated because of the added noise pollution.

There is a section of camp called 'Woodlands' which is where the boys cabins are located, and it also happens to be near the woods where on the other side could be a railroad. The railroad will affect the whole camp but it will affect the boy cabins the most. This camp has cabins that are not built like houses, but like cabins. This means that inside the cabins we can hear people walking outside the cabin, now imagine hearing a train, all night. Some trains are quiet but the oil trains are hazardous and loud because of the tremendous weight. Since the boys cabins would be closest to the railroad we would be constantly worried because of possible derailments of flammable oil trains.

Illinois has over 9,000 miles of railroad tracks going everywhere and there has to be one going right next to a peaceful camp full of kids? Many of the people going to camp shaw live in cities where there is enough noise pollution and camp is the only time they get to be in nature with a bunch of their friends having the time of their life. For the past 8 years of my life, camp shaw has been my highlight of my year because of all the activities, counselors, and the overall feel of the place. The counselors there are the nicest, most welcoming people I have ever met, and can make anything fun! When there's free time (guaranteed 1 hour of free time) this one counselor wouk