

Oct. 17, 2016

Opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railroad

Attn: Docket #FD35952

To Mr. Dave Wavack,

30 Years ago a young mom and dad in their twenties with two little boys and a Rottweiler puppy made the Huge decision to go out on a financial limb to purchase a 200 year old farm in Winnebago County in Northern Illinois. Our dream to live in the beauty of the country came true! A lovely mix of farmland and woodlands. Our escape from the noise, pollution, crime and closeness of the city. Our families and friends thought we were crazy to buy a neglected old farm, but we had a vision! We had insulation for wall paper, pressed plywood for floors and even a ladder to our bedroom during those first years of renovations and remodeling. 30 years later & having our very own 'Money Pit' home that was literally blood, sweat and tears! We had created a beautiful personalized, one of a kind home/farm with beautiful out buildings, patios, a family campground and paths through our woods, all landscaped & pristine. 30 years! We raised Belted Galloway cattle, Hampshire pigs, turkeys, chickens and participated in 4 H for years with our boys. Currently we have horses and hay fields. Bike & car clubs actually purposefully ride by our farm because it's so beautiful. Dozens of ski club parties, school functions, birthday celebrations and family reunions all have been held at the Farm. But most of all a wedding at the Farm for my oldest son last year with 300 people listening to vows in the woods and dancing to the band in our yard. Hoping to have another one soon that doesn't involve train whistles! Memories! So many peaceful, joyful memories! We are 3 years from retirement and have looked forward to enjoying the fruits of our labor in a few years.

To suddenly learn that our lifetime of love, sacrifice and investment is about to be destroyed by a private for profit Railroad (GLB) backed by the Federal Government, doesn't even seem real, especially since the landowners & community have been given NO VOICE. There is no REAL NEED for this railroad!

*We live West of the proposed route and will be severely impacted by this thoughtless decision and road closings. We will be cut off from **Emergency services**, such as Fire, Ambulance and Police. We will not have quick access to hospitals, schools, our closest towns and services.

*The family farms in the area will be **land locked**, lose revenue for lost or split fields and crops.

*Our **property values** and 30 years of investment will plummet. This was our Nest Egg!

*We live in an area with a **very high water table** with only a 70' well for our farm. The development of this Railroad will impact our already sensitive drainage. We already suffer from flooding due to the high water table, wetlands and rivers in the area.

*Any kind of spill from **hazardous materials** would forever impact our soil and water. We would be a wasteland!

*We have multiple **parks** in our Townships that would be nearly unreachable by the public.

*We have the **Pecatonica and Sugar Rivers** that run West of the proposed route. How will this impact those waterways?

*As a public school teacher, who taught for 10 years at **Shirland School**, which is west of the proposed route, the public school will probably close and have to consolidate with another district. Our kids wouldn't be able to attend our local high school, which is East of the route due to road closures. A school is the Pillar of the Community!

*There are many **local businesses** along this needless route that will be destroyed if this proposal is approved. Several Apple Orchards, Outdoor/Indoor Wedding Venues, an Organic Farm, several Campgrounds and of course Family Farms will be affected and possibly destroyed!

*Over a **100 trains a day! 70mph!** Noise, air, and soil pollution to our beautiful, rural community. Nature and all its tranquility gone, because a **PRIVATE NEW**

RAILROAD wants to make more money by creating a new route so trains **DON'T** have to slow down through Chicago coming from **Indiana to Milton, WI???**

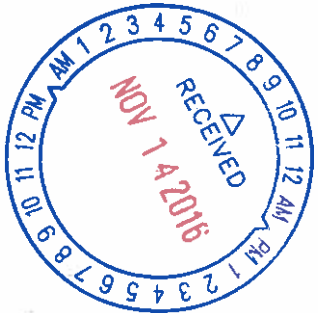
The Country Life is ALL about Slowing Down and taking in Life! This proposal will destroy lives, dreams and investments! This Community, My Community, my 30 years Matter! We deserve to have a voice! In a time when people don't trust big business and government, you have the opportunity to do what's right and **OPPOSE this Railroad. Put yourselves in our shoes and show respect and empathy.**

30 Years Later,



SteveJohnson6614@yahoo.com

Robin & Steve Johnson
6614 Pomeroy Rd.
Rockton, IL 61072



Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Robert M. F.D 35952
Base Parkway
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

CAROL STREAM IL 601
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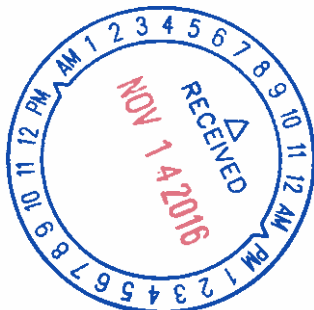
30 Years Later,

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CAROL STREAM IL 601

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Mr. Dave Dasey, Surface Transportation
Bureau
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395 E. Street, SW
Washington, D.C. ~~20423-0001~~
20423

STOP GLB Railroad