

Docket: FD35952

Dear Sirs:

I am sending this letter to express my concern and opposition to the proposed GLB railroad project. I live in Spring Township in Boone County IL and the proposed rail route will pass quite close to my property which concerns me greatly. I was co-chairman of the Solid Waste Planning Commission for Boone County in the mid 1990's, and we were charged with developing a 25 year plan for the future solid waste removal for the county. We held open meetings for 2 years and listened to all possible solutions as well as studying as much information as we could obtain concerning geology, hydrology, waste re-cycling, etc. In this process we looked at a possible new landfill site in Spring Township where the proposed rail route would be located, and after much input and study it was determined to be an unsuitable site. We then moved in other directions and submitted a plan that was approved by the county board.

The geology and hydrology of Spring Township has some features that make it a poor site for any project that involves potential chemical or hydrocarbon spills. The topsoil here is highly productive agricultural loam and subsequent drainage and percolation of liquids (water or waste) moves efficiently to a subsoil layer. The subsoil layer is composed of clay, sand and gravel that was deposited by the retreating glaciers from the last ice age, and again the liquids move easily through this layer. At relatively shallow depth of 100-300 feet a layer of shale is encountered throughout most of the area. At this point the movement of liquids changes from vertical to horizontal and effectively caps surface liquids. These features provide a high water table that produces many springs and wetlands in the township. The benefits to agriculture, wildlife, and home owners with wells are obvious.

A hydrocarbon/chemical spill of the type that are becoming more and more common with the increase of oil and ethanol rail shipment would lead to an environmental and financial disaster in our township. A serious spill would quickly leach down to the shale layer and contaminate the local water table which would result in hundreds of spoiled wells. The contamination would also move horizontally and find the local creeks that drain into the north branch of the Kishwaukee River, and you would have a full-blown environmental disaster. It

would be impossible to remediate this type spill as the contamination would be too deep to be effectively stopped.

I don't believe that GLB has the expertise or resources to address this real risk, and they are passing the responsibilities on the property owners. The property owners would then have to look to the courts for redress and I would expect to see GLB fight any and all claims. If they lost their fight and were ordered to pay damages, I suspect that they would declare bankruptcy and walk away from any financial responsibility. They are, in reality, an investment group not an operating business like a railroad, oil or chemical company that have real assets and profits that would be available to pay claims. The case of BP and the Gulf disaster is a good example of a company that tried to resolve an environmental disaster. I would not see a group of investors like GLB doing the same.

In conclusion, I would say that the GLB project should be rejected as having great risks to the public and the environment with little benefit to anyone, save GLB.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Mueller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Mueller" clearly legible.

John Mueller
Spring Township
3145 Shattuck Rd
Belvidere, IL 61008
815-547-3580
jmrambler70@gmail.com

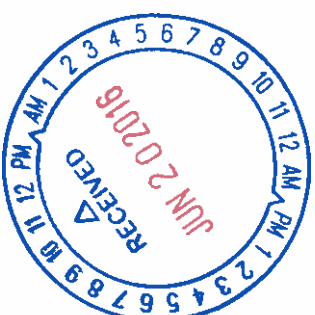
John Mueller
3145 Shattuck Rd
Belvidere, IL 61008

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Surface Transportation Board
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295 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



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