

Mark and Pam Spurgeon
5200 Shattuck Road
Belvidere, IL 61008

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attn: Dave Novecky

Dear Dave,

I am writing to you regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad that they are considering putting in right near my house. We moved out to our quiet little country home about 13 years ago. We loved it because it was quiet and we could sit out on our deck and watch the deer and other wildlife enjoying our environment. When I found out that they are considering putting in a railroad, I was devastated. It will directly impact the amount of wildlife we have around as they will move where it is safe for them and not noisy. The Railroad will also bring along with it lots of noise pollution to my quiet home. If there are spills or train derailments it would directly affect my well for my water and the aquifer that is in our area. We have beautiful wetlands behind our house that this will affect. There are a pair of eagles that live here but I am sure would relocate. We have wild pheasants and coveys of quail that live and survive here.

Being that we are Spring Township and have an abundant number of springs, how will the train and movement of the earth affect the high water table and springs that run under the houses and supply water to our wetlands and wells?

The man that wants to put in this railroad said he wants to do it so he could leave a legacy for his kids, but if he puts it in, my legacy for my daughter loses. The railroad will affect house and property prices very negatively! This will make all the people who are around it lose lots of money that they worked very hard to earn. This would be totally devastating to many people including me. What jobs will this bring in for our area? This will be bad for our area.

You ask for suggestions on this railroad:

First: there are already railroads available that can be upgraded without affecting more farmland and peoples property and wetlands.

Second: if this were to go through, why would it turn after crossing I90 to run along Shattuck Road and through 10 backyards and along the wetlands when it could be run straight north and affect fewer homes and possibly less impact?

Please do not approve this Great Lakes Basin Railroad!

Thank you,



Mark and Pam Spurgeon

Pam and Mark Spurgeon
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Belvidere, IL 61008



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