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July 13, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

First of all, I'd like to thank you and your team for listening to our opinions, in the matter of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

I'm speaking as a family farm owner, in the town of Kouts, Indiana, just a few miles south of the proposed route for GLBT Railroad. I wanted to share the drain this has taken on the mental health of my family, community and myself. The South Porter County Indiana area has a special place in our hearts. My wife's family has been in Kouts since the late 1800's. We are so privileged to be raising a family there.

My family and I have sacrificed for years, with extreme levels of work, to pay for and build our farmhouse in Kouts. I've been since suffering from depression symptoms in thought of how this railroad will destroy our area and the serenity of our farm. It's simply consuming our lives. AS a man of integrity and leadership, I find it hard to move forward with this threat so evident.

As a worship leader at Hopewell Mennonite Church in Kouts, I've noticed a heavy toll, in anxiety, placed upon our congregation, as most have farms directly effected by the route also. We pray for a quick decision, whichever it may be, so we can decide to move locations or move on with our lives. The effect on our mental health is alarming. We truly hope you consider to not allow GLBT railroad to be built.

A majority of our friends and family are currently directly effected by the current proposal. There has been a dark cloud of depression, buried within everyones hearts, since this GLBT railroad proposal was brought up. The traffic numbers will be very high, as a majority of our county roads will not have crossings.

I'm aware of Eminent Domain procedures, and would be much more understanding if there was a benefit to our county, or even the surrounding counties. The GLBT Railroad, however, will forever devastate South Porter County. Private Investors will become the only people benefiting.

Working in the construction industry my entire adult life, I fully understand and often appreciate building projects, as they provide our main source of income. I see no benefit from GLBT, whatsoever, to either Lake or Porter Counties in Indiana. Having the major railroads as my customers, and in discussing their business practices, I still see no practical reasoning for the GLBT railroad. GLBT Vice President has not given any information on which railroads or investors will be involved.

Northwest Indiana contains miles of abandoned railroads, which would be a much more preferred area, if the project is to move forward.

Thank you for your assistance and research in this matter. Our families look forward to a decision and are grateful for your consideration and understanding.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey V Szarley