

TAG ARCHIVES: GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD

Sen. Sue Rezin: I Was Never Notified About Great Lakes Basin Railroad



Sen. Sue Rezin

Speaking Thursday night at the Seneca high school during a public meeting with the federal Surface Transportation Board the areas state Sen. Sue Rezin(R-Morris) said that she and her office were never notified about the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad project, 280 miles of freight rail track that would go from Milton, Wisconsin to Northwest Indiana. The proposed route would go through the Northeast portion of LaSalle county and through Grundy county which are in Rezin's district.

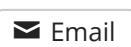
Because she wasn't told about the project Rezin says that she is therefore skeptical of the project.

From the [Ottawa Times Steve Stout](#):

"I am most disappointed that I never received any official notifications of this project," Rezin said. "That alone make me skeptical of the proposal. I have already begun to work closely with the Illinois Farm Bureau to plan how to catch up with the project details to learn additional details about it."

Speaking to the crowd, La Salle County Farm Bureau President Monty Whipple revealed that bureau board of directors had recently and unanimously voted to oppose the rail project.

"We cannot allow the environmental impact of total disruption of our county's pristine rural area," he said. Whipple explained the farm bureau demands assurances from the project managers and federal agencies that all stakeholder voices be heard.

[Tweet](#)**Share this:**[Tweet](#)

3



0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Seneca, Sue Rezin, Surface transportation board on 04/23/2016 [<http://usofarn.com/2016/04/23/sen-sue-rezin-i-was-never-notified-about-great-lakes-basin-railroad/>] by Ulysses Arn.

Yes, I Support The Great Lakes Basin Railroad



Call me a contrarian but I actually support the proposed Great Lakes Basin railroad project that would allow freight rail to bypass Chicagoland and would go from Milton, Wisconsin to Indiana crossing through much of Northern Illinois.

For weeks now the project has been getting hammered by opponents who have expressed a whole host of concerns about the 280 mile rail line, some of which are warranted and some which are not. This has included hundreds of people

attending each federal Surface Transportation Board meetings that have been held about the project the last several days. At the meetings people have been against the project because of the amount of prime farmland that would be lost, safety issues, drainage and environmental issues, and more.

Too few people have been willing to tell the STB or otherwise speak favorably about the project, so I will.

Yes the proposed route has some deep flaws but that shouldn't take away from the opportunity of economic growth the region could prosper from should this railroad bypass be built.

Just the section of track that would link the Rockford airport, one of the busiest cargo airports in the country, to Rochelle and its intermodal hub and major rail lines would give Ogle, Lee and Winnebago counties economies a good boost and bring much-needed jobs to the area.

The Rockford airport's management have been trying for decades to lure more cargo business this project gives them the best chance they've had in years to fulfill their own plans for growth. Kankakee county and surrounding areas would benefit from the Great Lakes Basin Railroad as it would almost certainly bring with it an intermodal hub to their area creating more economic growth and more jobs.

If the people behind this project are willing to listen to certain changes, like exclusively going through Ogle county via the existing(but in poor shape) rail line that runs from the airport to Rochelle instead of building entirely new track on the East side of I-39(which is very stupid) they would find more support for this project; taking more time to educate people about it and discuss issues with them wouldn't hurt either.

This project, if done right, could be as important for the region as the Interstates that link us, or the Illinois or Mississippi Rivers, in terms of economics and commerce.

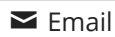
We need jobs. We need to keep existing and attract new businesses.

If anyone else has a better idea on how to do that, for the benefit of Southern Wisconsin, Northern and Central Illinois, and Northwest Indiana, I'm all ears.

Until then why don't we trying helping folks involved with this railroad come up with a much better, and much less controversial route instead of trying to shoot the railroad down.

Tweet

Share this:


[Tweet](#)

[G+1](#)

1



submit



0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Boone County, Chicago, economic growth, Great Lakes Basin Railroad, job creation, Kankakee county, Ogle county, Rochelle, Rockford, Surface transportation board on 04/21/2016 [<http://usofarn.com/2016/04/21/yes-i-support-the-great-lakes-basin-railroad/>] by Ulysses Arn.

Sheridan Village Board Has Safety And Environmental Issues With Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad



The [Ottawa Times](#) is reporting that village trustees in Sheridan have some safety and environmental issues with the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad which would go from Milton, Wisconsin to LaPorte, Indiana ringing Chicagoland and allowing freight rail to bypass the city altogether.

The proposed route would go from Rockford to Rochelle before cutting across the Northeast portion of LaSalle county(where Sheridan is) before going into Grundy county and making its way East to Kankakee county and then Indiana.

The Sheridan trustees are concerned that the \$6 billion railroad, which is being privately funded, would affect creek and river flows in the area as well as drainage due to the loss of a large chunk of farmland.

On the safety side of things the trustees are concerned that the large volume of freight trains and the proposed routes cutting off of certain rural roads, would hamper emergency responders ability to get to calls. Also of concern for trustees was the possibility of a train derailment in the area, something their first responders wouldn't be able to handle properly.

There is a federal Surface Transportation Board hearing on the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Wednesday night at Rochelle high school(I'll be there covering it) and another one Thursday night at Seneca high school for those of you who live in LaSalle and Grundy counties.

[Tweet](#)

Share this:

 Print

[Tweet](#)

 Email

 3

 submit



 0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Sheridan on 04/19/2016 [http://usofarn.com/2016/04/19/sheridan-village-board-has-safety-and-environmental-issues-with-proposed-great-lakes-basin-railroad/] by Ulysses Arn.

Opponents Of Great Lakes Basin Railroad Speakout in Rochelle

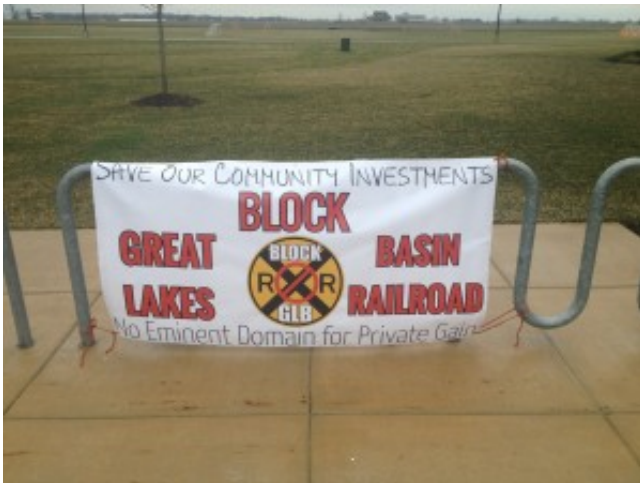
About 150 people came out Sunday evening to Rochelle's Lincoln elementary school to talk about the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad which would allow freight trains to avoid Chicago and would stretch from Wisconsin to Indiana.

Carl Zimmerman, a farmer from Earlville, who lives near where the proposed rail line would go spent nearly half an hour listing off a number of reasons why he and others are opposed to the \$8 billion



privately funded project.

Zimmerman hit on everything from road crossing, to farmers being cut off from portions of their fields, to drainage issues as being reasons to oppose the project. Mr. Zimmerman was also not fond of the private investors in the project not being named. At one point he wondered if Canadian Pacific might not be a part of the deal as they seek to increase their market share.



Mr. Zimmerman was also not keen on the fact that the leader of the project is a venture capitalist and not a railroad or agribusiness head honcho and that he could possibly use eminent domain at some point down the line to take the land needed for the project should landowners reject offers to buy the land.

Block Great Lakes Basin Railroad Meeting R... ➞



Ogle county board member Zach Oltmanns who listened to the presentation said he was concerned that the project would use up too much farm land. The currently proposed route would cover the entire

length of Oltmanns district in Northeast Ogle county. Of the economic benefits that might come from the project Oltmanns said that he thinks they are being exaggerated. Oltmanns also said that if the project's route were changed to say utilize an existing rail line from the Rockford airport to Rochelle would be better than building an entirely new track across the eastern portion of the county.

Ogle County board member Zach Oltmanns on Great Lakes B... 



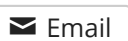
[Tweet](#)

Share this:



Print

[Tweet](#)



Email



G+1

3



submit



0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Carl Zimmerman, Chicago, economic growth, farm land, freight rail, Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Illinois, Ogle county, Rochelle, venture capitalist, Zach Oltmanns on 04/10/2016 [<http://usofarn.com/2016/04/10/opponents-of-great-lakes-basin-railroad-speakout-in-rochelle/>] by Ulysses Arn.

Manteno Mayor Likes Economic Growth That Could Come With Great Lakes Basin Railroad Bypass



The Ottawa Times is reporting that Manteno, IL Mayor Tim Nugent is very excited about the economic growth that could come with the building of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad which would allow freight trains to avoid Chicago and Cook county and would go from Milton, Wisconsin to Northwest Indiana.

Manteno Mayor Tim Nugent said if it comes to life, it could have a huge impact on Manteno and northern Kankakee County.

He noted plans thus far call for a railroad terminal between Illinois Route 50 and Illinois Route 1 just north of Manteno. He said that would create employment opportunities as well.

But as area residents have learned with these massive transportation projects, they move slowly and often wind up derailed.

"This is years away. This is a major, major, major undertaking," he said. "It could really be a boon to the area."

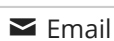
The private rail project is expected to cost \$8 billion, but is years and years away from being completed, the environmental impact study alone is going to take 3 years to finish.

[Tweet](#)

Share this:



[Tweet](#)



3



submit



0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Chicago, economic growth, freight train, Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Manteno, railroad bypass, Tim Nugent on 03/25/2016

[<http://usofarn.com/2016/03/25/manteno-mayor-likes-economic-growth-that-could-come-with-great-lakes-basin-railroad-bypass/>] by Ulysses Arn.

RailRoad Bypass Meeting Added For Belvidere



[Update to this story.](#)

There will be an addition meeting about the proposed Great Lakes Basin railroad bypass that would go from Wisconsin to Indiana to be held in Belvidere next month.

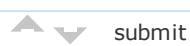
State Rep. Joe Sosnowski helped get this additional meeting put together with the federal Surface Transportation Board.

The meeting will take place in Belvidere April 19th from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Building at 111 West 1st Street.

[Tweet](#)

Share this:

[Tweet](#)



Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Belvidere, Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Illinois, Joe Sosnowski on 03/23/2016 [<http://usofarn.com/2016/03/23/railroad-bypass-meeting-added-for-belvidere/>] by Ulysses Arn.

Rail Road Bypass Meetings To Be Held In April



There will be a series of public meetings about the proposed Rail Road Bypass that would go from Milton, Wisconsin to Indiana cutting through Northern and Central Illinois.

The Great Lakes Basin Railroad meetings are:

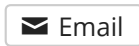
April 11, 5:30-8 p.m., Manteno Sportsmen's Club Banquet Hall, 851 North Main Street, Manteno.

April 19, 5:30-8 p.m., Cherry Valley Fire Station #2 Hall, 4919 Blackhawk Road, Rockford.

April 20, 5:30-8 p.m., Rochelle Township High School Auditorium, 1401 Flagg Road, Rochelle.

April 21, 5:30-8 p.m., Seneca High School Auditorium, 307 East Scott Street, Seneca.

The proposed railroad would ease the freight train traffic nightmare in Chicago, but it would require the use of a lot of farmland. It could really turn into a big economic engine should the final route include linking the Rockford airport, one of the nations busiest cargo airports, to the intermodal hub and major train lines in Rochelle.

[Tweet](#)**Share this:**[Tweet](#)

1



0

Like this:

Loading...

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged Chicago, Great Lakes Basin Railroad, public meetings, rail road bypass, Rochelle, Rockford on 03/21/2016 [<http://usofarn.com/2016/03/21/rail-road-bypass-meetings-to-be-held-in-april/>] by Ulysses Arn.

