

We are appreciative of the Surface Transportation Board's transparency regarding the proposed GLBR. While we do not have any suggestions for alternative routes, we do have major concerns regarding the impact on our community and on the lives of those who could be impacted by this proposal.

Two major railroads have already gone on record stating that they are not interested in utilizing this rail line – The Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern.

You have heard all of the comments regarding safety and transportation, land use, drainage, air quality, hazardous spills, etc. so we will not take your time by being repetitive. We attended the Wanatah, IN, scoping meeting and feel that representatives of the Board were attentive to the concerns of the citizens who voiced their concerns.

Just for the record, the proposed plan will split our farm and literally would run between the house and the barns. Also, the proposed rail line would run 150' behind our home. We have a recording of the noise level from trains idling on tracks that run two miles south of our home and that is noise pollution enough. We do not need more. Some of the effects of noise pollution are cardiovascular health problems, elevated blood pressure (of course ours is elevated right now just thinking about this proposal!), headaches, fatigue, depressions and psychological disorders. Emotional stress can be a dangerous thing and debilitating. Mr. Patton (The Times newspaper) promises nearby residents the "longest quiet-zone railroad ever built" meaning that trains will not be able to blast their horns at crossings. Evidently, Mr. Patton has never lived near a railroad because it isn't just horn blasting but the movement and idling noise of the trains that is detrimental.

Mr. Patton is quoted that he is having "fun" working on this project, but it isn't "fun" thinking about ruining livelihoods and the livelihood of future generations. Our family has already been uprooted once in the 30's and 40's when the government needed a munitions plant during WWII. In the April 24, 2016 article in The Times, Mr. Patton stated that he knows that protestors have fastened on the maximum capacity of 110 trains per day outlined in documents filed with the Surface Transportation Board but that's "30 years from now." Why would we not be concerned about our future generations!? Once land is ruined, it cannot be recouped.

Supposedly, this railroad will create jobs. How can the loss of livelihood of so many be taken for granted? Mr. Patton desires to leave a legacy for himself and his children (Energywire, E&E Publishing, LLC). What about the legacy of all of those who will be adversely impacted by this proposed rail line?

Ken & Rita Layton

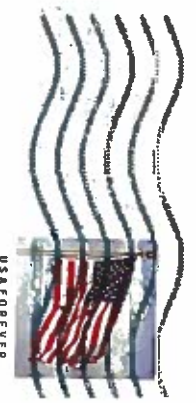
1498 W 500 S

La Porte, IN

Handwritten signatures of Rita Layton and Ken Layton. Rita's signature is in cursive and appears to be 'Rita Layton'. Ken's signature is also in cursive and appears to be 'Ken Layton'.



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