

David K. Wollgast
2490 S. Verona Rd.
Verona, IL 60479
(815) 287-2036

July 06, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. FD-35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Great Lakes Basin Railroad
Docket No. FD-35952

Mr. Navecky,

I would like to bring to your attention to the impact of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad on the Chief Shabbona Reservation in Grundy County, Illinois. The proposed route of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad runs directly through the center of 20 acres of reserved land for the National Icon Potawatomi Chief Shabbona and his family. Chief Shabbona played a significant role in the relationship between our developing nation and the indigenous peoples who lived here. He fought alongside Tecumseh in his last battle, The Battle of the Thames in the War of 1812, then later became a liaison between the settlers and the native tribes. The Treaty of Prairie Du Chien in 1829 deeded two tracks of land for Chief Shabbona and his band of Potawatomi in present day DeKalb County Illinois. The later 1833 Treaty of Chicago terminated Chief Shabbona's rights to his land. A small 20 acre tract of land south of the Illinois River in Grundy County was then reserved for Chief Shabbona and his descendants. Chief Shabbona lived out his remaining days on the property until his death in 1859. The Great Lakes Basin Railroad route stands to cut directly through the center of the property which for the last 157 years, the rights to the Chief Shabbona property have been reserved for his descendants.

With the major historical thoroughfare, the Illinois River, in the area, Grundy County is abundant with many archeological sites where artifacts found indicate the presence of Native American encampments, caches, and burial sites as well as camps of early explorers and settlers. Most of these sites are on private property, not commonly known to most people and have yet to be properly studied and documented. A few of these known areas are located along the route of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad and are at risk of being demolished by the construction of the railway.

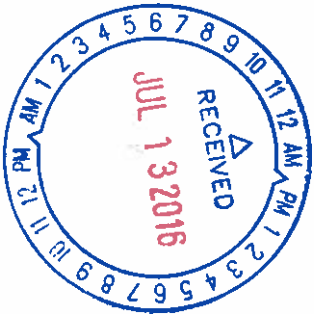
It is my hope that much needed research will be placed into the Chief Shabbona Reservation and the other archeological sites throughout the entirety of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad before a route is finalized. It would be irresponsible for these historically precious sites to be carelessly obliterated by the lack of attention to them during the consideration and construction of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Sincerely,



David K. Wollgast

David Wollgast
2490 S. Verona Rd.
Verona, IL 60479



Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD-35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



S SUBURBAN IL 604
08 JUL 2016 PM 6 L

