

July 7, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky,

We are opposed to the Great Lakes Basin Railway (GLB) for the various reasons outlined in this document. The proposed GLB is set to run through what was once known as the Grand Kankakee Marsh aka The Everglades of the North until man came through in the name of progress, began draining it and developed it into highly productive farmland. Our property is located in Porter Township in Porter County and will be approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile from the proposed railway route.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

An area that will definitely be impacted by the railway through Porter Township, Porter County, Indiana is the Jerry Allen Marsh, located near the corner of 450 West and 550 South, Valparaiso, IN. The railway would be approximately a quarter mile from it. This marsh is owned by Waterfowl U.S.A., Northwest Indiana Chapter.

According to its website, <http://www.waterfowlusa.org/Projects-NWI>, it was a 78-acre farm, which was a drained wetland. It was purchased in 1993 by the group and was shaped into its original wetlands state complete with two dikes, three islands and a 3-acre goose pasture. Geese, wood duck, mallards and other wildlife live in and around the marsh. Chapter members and other volunteers have provided numerous hours working on this wetland project.

Numerous studies have been done that confirm that noise pollution like that which a train would produce negative effects on animals and people,

Additionally, there are many farms in the area that have livestock like horses, sheep, chickens and cattle, which would be adversely affected by the noise and vibrations from the 110 trains a day travelling nearby.

Besides noise pollution, obviously, if a train derails causing toxins to seep into the groundwater, this is a major problem for animals and people. Drinking and/or bathing in contaminated water can lead to sickness and/or death. Everyone relies on groundwater from wells for their water in these rural areas.

The construction of a 278-mile rail line running up to 110 trains a day would absolutely be devastating to the people, animals, communities and natural resources along the line. The decision of allowing the GLB to construct this giant railway would be a mistake that would be nearly impossible to undo. Decisions from more than a century ago forever changed the land; let's not go down the same path again.

Sincerely,

Miranda & Richard Serletic

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