

July 11, 2016

ATTN: Docket #FD 35952

Mr. Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket # 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC20423-0001

Mr. Navecky,

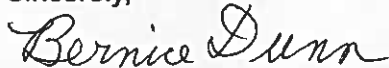
There are so many reasons to oppose the Grand Basin Railway and I can think of no reasons to support it. One thing really upsets me. Mr. Patton stated at a meeting in Morris, IL, that he thought his choice of a route was a good one because it would pass through undeveloped land. EXCUSE ME! This prime Illinois farmland is not undeveloped. This land is a precious natural resource. All my life I have been taught to preserve this natural resource. Most of these farms have been in a farm family for three or four generations and each generation practices good soil conservation methods and does his or her best to pass the land on to his or her heirs in better condition than when he or she obtained it. Good farmland is something we need to protect. We should not let it be torn up and wasted in this way. This land feeds many people around the world.

Another concern of mine is the problems that will occur because of cutting through farm fields and the upgrading needed to cross the Illinois River, Interstate 80 and a several of the highways in our community. The map shows that numerous farm fields will be cut across, leaving two smaller fields in the shape of a triangle. Farm machinery has become quite wide now days and it is a terrible nuisance to try to maneuver it around in a triangle. Farm fields need to be square or rectangular, NOT triangles.

Now, about the upgrading of the tracks. Take the Illinois River as an example. The overpass would have to be quite high in the air, so that the barge traffic on the river can pass under it. Railroad tracks have to be upgraded gently, so the upgrading is going to start way back in the farm fields on each side of the river. There would be places where the track would be many many feet above the level of the farm field. To build the track up that high will require a lot of soil. That Wastes tons of the good Illinois soil to, That leaves giant holes in the ground.

The railroad will damage our farm drainage systems, disrupt our fire and emergency response times, interfere with school bus routes, and on and on. There are so many reasons to oppose and no reasons we should have a railroad coming through our community.

Sincerely,



Bernice Dunn
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