

March 23, 2016

Dave Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

395E Street SW

Washington D.C. 20423

Docket No FD-35952

Re: Great Lakes Basin Railroad Proposed Route

To Whom It May Concern:

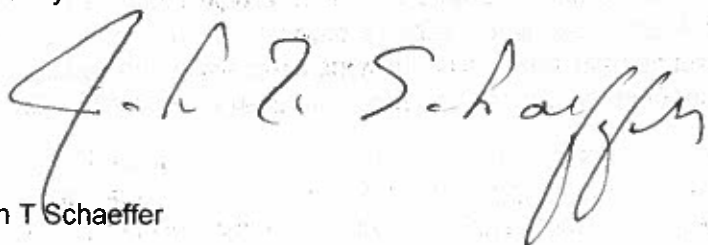
I would like to introduce myself, I am John Schaeffer a retired Combat wounded Vietnam Veteran having served with the United States Marine Corps, writing as a private citizen and a land owner in a local farming community. I would like to go on record and to urge you to not support The Great Lakes Basin railroad project from Milton Wisconsin to Michigan City Indiana. Together my wife and I purchased 12 acers of land on the North side of Edson Road East of Denny Road in Capron, IL, we purchased this piece of land with intentions of building a home for ourselves to live out the remainder of our lives. During the past 26 years together we have gotten to know our surrounding neighbors and became a part of a rural community, a community that is directly affected by this proposal.

Throughout the years we have spent our free time turning this vacant piece of land into our dream, by excavating the land into something we can work with, built a barn, planted trees, grown hay for cattle feed, and had several successful vegetable gardens. We created a gathering place for family and friends, hosting annual events along with spur of the moment campouts where countless memories were made. This piece of land has brought several generations of family together not only for enjoyment but also for the experience of a good days work and giving back. All of which seems to hold the possibility of being a thing of the past if this proposal becomes a reality.

Now our time has come to make our dreams come true. We along with our only daughter, husband and two boys have embarked on a new endeavor as an extended family. This fall a mutual decision on both sides set plans into motion for a home to be built for all of us. We long for a simple peaceful life, enjoying the property that we worked hard for over the years. The opportunity of teaching a new generation a different way to live, showing them how it is possible to work the land and benefit from that work with the rewards of farming and raising organic food for consumption. With this current proposal this dream is soon to be our nightmare. It does not seem possible for us to obtain that dream with the railroads current proposed position a few hundred yards from where we were to place a home. On top of our dreams slipping away the value of the property will also be slipped out from underneath us.

I strongly urge the department to take our situation into consideration when reviewing this proposal. The proposal as it exists it will forever alter those innocent lives that fall within the railroad tracks. With family within the community we are astounded over a proposal of a railroad that will not only run throughout Boone County but also run directly through our hearts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John T. Schaeffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John T Schaeffer

John & Dahlia Schaeffer
1217 Center Lane
Arlington Heights, IL 60004



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