

Attn: Dave Navecky

03-20-2016

My name is Amanda VerHagen I live at 8650 Loveridge Rd
Garden Prairie, IL 61038

This is concerning the new great lakes basin railroad that will soon be built near my home. I'm a 3rd generation hobby farmer in which we raise chickens, own 4 horses for pleasure and entertain a lively pet goat. We will soon have the train less than a quarter mile from our pastures. This train will bring unwanted pollution to this area. Hauling upwards of 100 trains daily will greatly impact the wildlife in this area as it will be very close to the kishwaukee river where people fish, cranes and wild birds nest and where natural prairies still exist (hence living in Garden Prairie known for the prairies). The surrounding fields are also owned by our neighbors who are 3rd and 4th generation farmers, will you be making every East West road in Boone County Ag assessable? These farmers rely solely on their crops and profit from the land. Has anyone looked into this area known as tornado alley? We have had devastating tornados in this area annually. Farms have been wiped out, children killed on school busses; the historic Edwards apple orchard was taken out only a few years ago. My question and heart felt concern is in the event of a train derailment or damage during weather where are the hazmat people in this area? Who will come to a small town to clean up the mess? Just because we area a densely populated area does not mean that we are not going to show our support nor fight for what is right and wrong, we were able to keep chemtool from coming to this area several years ago and damaging this area, now the train? People are already talking of selling and moving elsewhere due to this issue, I as well will be planning to move out of state within 5 years if this train passes by my land.

Feel free to contact me at: quartwelve@yahoo.com

Phone number
redacted

An awfully upset farmer from Boone County,
Amanda VerHagen

Amanda VerHagen

3/20/14