

EI-22301



Socioeconomic issues of great Lakes basin railroad passing through Rock county, wisconsin
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I want to first address the personal impact of the railroad passing less than a mile from my rural home.

NOISE , NOISE, NOISE, NOISE POLLUTION

I am trying to envision every Sunday church service, wedding, funeral, bible study, youth group drowned out by a train passing one quarter mile from my church in Emerald Grove. The GLBT has announced that up to 100 trains a day will pass through here.

Will I ever be able to enjoy the quiet of my own yard again? We moved to the country 26 years to escape city noise. We have created a wildlife sanctuary for native animals and birds. Will migrating birds stop here? We know the noise shy herons will never nest on the creek that runs parallel to the train (and less than 1/2 mile from the tracks) again. How does one sleep with a train going through every 15 minutes day and night?

The train is creating dead end roads which will be problematic for ambulances, fire trucks, school buses, farm equipment, residents (who will have to drive miles out of their way to access home and property) and snow plows

The trains will cross at least 23 roads in just about 20 miles. They have indicated they will build overpasses or underpasses on some of the bigger roads and highways..but what about the smaller/less traveled roads that are only busy during commuting times? How will anyone be able to travel these roads with a train coming through every few minutes? I have examined the proposed route and I will not be able to go in any direction without crossing the tracks within three miles of my home. How will this impact how quickly fire and police can react and will this impact our home owners insurance since it is calculated on how fast fire department can reach our home ?

Our property values will decrease...a lot. Who would choose to buy property less than a mile from a train line that comes through here 100 times per day???

This does not provide one dollar of economic value for us...yet you have no compunction about using eminent domain to the detriment of thousands of people in the Bradford Township /Village of Clinton area. Clinton village limits are one mile from railroad and there is a rather large rural subdivision less than half a mile from the proposed railroad. We will have noise pollution, less tax revenue and train tracks criss crossing our rural area.

Loss of jobs in these rural communities will happen. Less land means fewer crops, less cows to milk..less laborers needed. The farm implement, repair businesses, seed corn and farm chemical providers will see a decrease in business. Less land farmed means less property taxes. The important thing is that the \$20,000 per acre is a pittance. That land will be forever gone, no crops will ever again be produced...the income gone never to be replaced by the landowner. Farmer's will have to seek other employment to make up the difference. Rock County already consistently has one of wisconsin 's

highest unemployment rates.

What about the fences and pastures that will have to be refenced? What about the driveways and roads to pastures that will have to be remade? What about the house that ends up 100 feet from the railroad..will they pay to move it or rebuild it? What about the milking farms that find their barns right next to the railroad? How will the noise and vibration from the train affect milk production or in the case of poultry..egg production? Will the railroad reimburse farmers for the lost income when milk and egg production fall or stop? How is the railroad going to compensate a farmer whose land is cut into tiny pieces and now accessible only by driving miles out of the way?

This "deal" proposed by the great Lakes basin rail line will benefit only some fat cat or foreign investors who think that our land and way of life should be ruined for their profit. We are not for sale. The farm land (some of the best and most productive in the midwest) is not for sale. We do not choose this deal.