

Salina Township
James Moody, Supervisor
Kankakee County, Illinois

ATTN: Dave Navecky – Docket No. FD35952

Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

May 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Navecky,

On behalf of the citizens of Salina township, and the Township Board of Trustees, I would like to express our concerns over the proposed Docket # FD35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC project. We respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board deny the proposed project for the following reasons:

1.) SAFETY:

There would be several rail road crossings in our township, this would increase the risk of accidents at each crossing. The crossings will also increase the response times for emergency vehicles, putting residents at greater risk. Additionally, it has been proposed that some of the roads may be closed instead of having a crossing. This is an even bigger obstacle for emergency vehicles. With the large amount of school bus traffic on our rural roads, there would be significant risk with the buses crossing the high speed tracks several times while loaded with children. Local police and fire departments would likely need special training and equipment to be prepared for any incidents involving high speed trains carrying hazardous freight.

2.) SECONDARY ROADS:

It is my understanding that any road with a low traffic volume would be closed. This would cause significant hardships for local residents. Closed roads would impact emergency responders, school bus routes, residential traffic, businesses and commerce in general.

3.) IMPACT ON CURRENT LAND USE:

There would be several hundred acres of prime farmland permanently removed from production. Many farm fields would be divided into smaller, odd shaped parcels. This could effectively render much of it useless and worthless.

4.) NOISE:

With a reported volume of 110 trains per day, approximately one every thirteen minutes, the noise level within one mile of the tracks would make any home nearly unlivable.

5.) SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT:

The rail road would greatly decrease home and land values, lowering the tax base. The entire township would be much less desirable to any future residential development.

Sincerely,

James Moody
Salina Township Supervisor