



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

EI- 22721

Seneca Scoping Mtg
4-21-16

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link and then clicking on "Environmental Comments."

Please refer to Docket No. FD 35952 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is June 15, 2016.

USE EXISTING RAIL OR DECOMMISSIONED
RAIL BEDS INSTEAD OF TAKING
PRIME FARM LAND - SOME HOUSES
ARE WITHIN 500 FT OF THESE
RAILS !!! NO EMINENT DOMAIN FOR
A PRIVATE INVENTOR PROJECT !!!

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment or some Other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

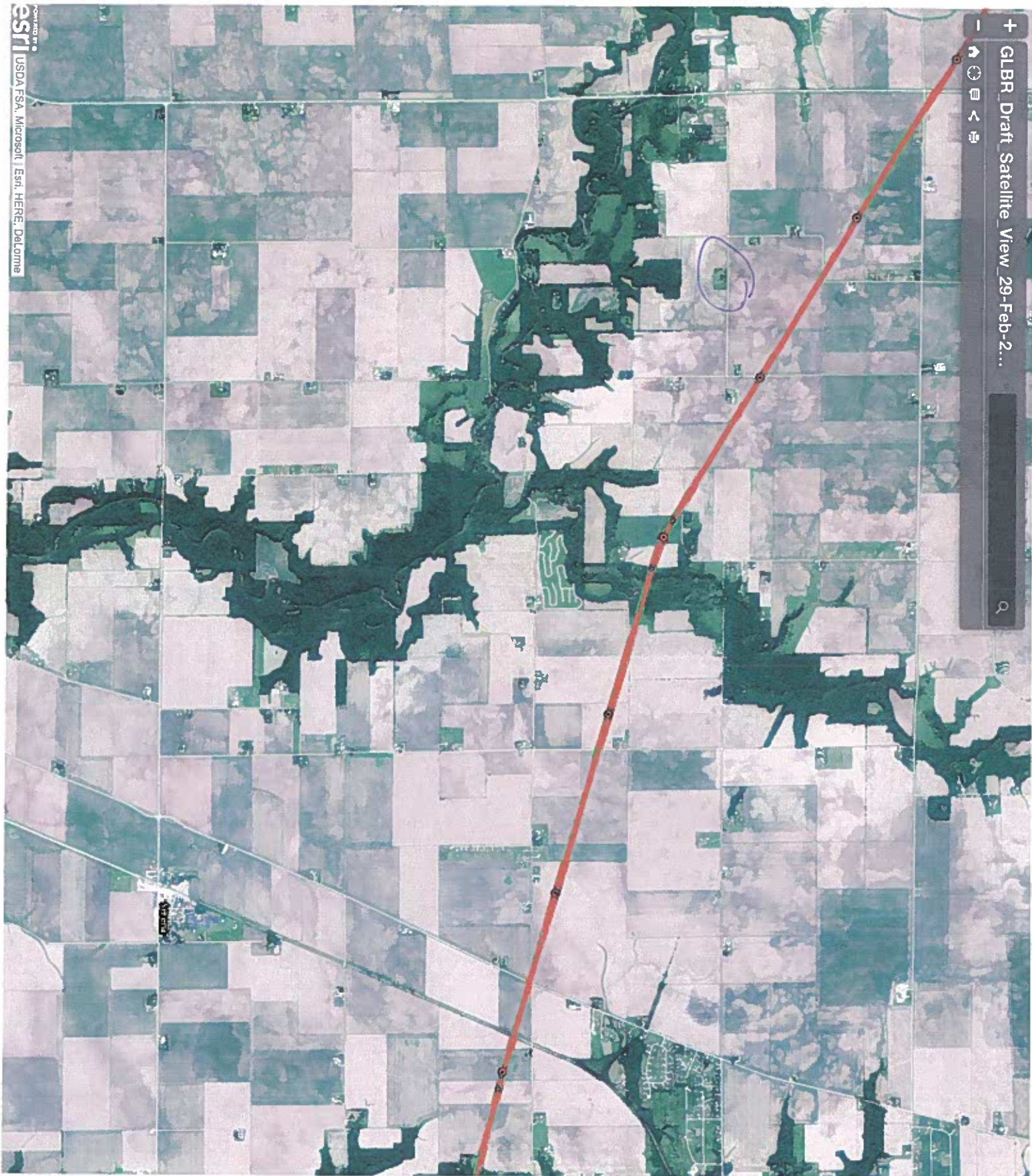
Comments may be submitted
today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Andrea + Peter Rackmij

Seneca County, New York
April 21, 2016

1948 N. 41st Road Sheridan, IL 60551



Andrea + Peter Rackmeyer
1948 N. 41st Rd. Sheridan, IL 60551

815-495-9536

RAIL YARDS: 15,000 acres???? - 24 HRS STADIUM TYPE LIGHTS, CONSTANT TRUCK/TRAIN TRAFFIC- DIESEL EMISSIONS/AIR & NOISE POLLUTION - impact on birds and bats other wildlife

Transport is major user of energy, burns most of world's petroleum, creates air pollution, nitrous oxides and particulates, and is a significant contributor to global warming through CO2 emission. Transport is the fastest-growing emission sector. Commuter rail/subway trains emit 0.17 kg of CO₂ per passenger mile (0.26 kg/km per passenger), and long distance (>20 mi, >32 km) trains emit 0.19 kg of CO₂ per passenger mile (0.3 kg/km per passenger).^[15] **Some carbon calculations add 10% to the total trip distance to account for detours, stop-overs, and other issues that may arise.**

Effects on the soil - Valuable quantities of agricultural land/biotope lost, lines intersect residential areas lead to destruction of natural resources. Earth displaced. Embankments built, brought from elsewhere. Spoil from tunnel construction requires proper disposal if unused for embankments nearby. Exposed soil is an erosion risk. Surface construction causes sealing and compaction.

- Surface water - Both on embankments and in cuttings care must be taken to ensure effective methods of lateral water drainage. Water courses, rerouted if necessary, must be large enough to lead the surface water away effectively. Recultivation and replanting are needed to combat erosion due to rainwater and landslip. Errors in layout and design will cause water pooling and consequent damage. Streams and other water collection points may be polluted unless they are screened against the ingress of surface water.

2.3 Exhaust gas emissions Diesel engine pollutants are: - carbon monoxide (CO) - hydrocarbons (HC) - nitrogen oxide (NO_x) - sulphur dioxide (SO₂) - particle emissions (soot). The extent of the emissions from diesel engines depends on: - the load and speed of the engine - the load depends in turn on the weight of the train (the train burden) and the speed of travel, which in most cases is determined by the track - combustion processes (direct, precombustion chamber) - operating process (two-stroke, four-stroke) - standard of maintenance - quality of fuel

IMPACT ON SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

RAILWAY CORRIDOR CONTAMINANTS to soil/water/air posing adverse health effects on wildlife and environment: Residual contamination found along rail corridor - potential contaminants: Chemicals railroad ties are treated with is creosote, an insecticide, sporicide, miticide and fungicide that penetrates wood may ooze out, leeching into soil killing plants and wildlife. Creosote pollutes watershed/health danger from prolonged/frequent contact. Chromated copper arsenate (CCA) alternative to creosote is more dangerous. Protects against rotting with chromium, copper and arsenic - are toxic danger to plants/wildlife. Coal ash and cinder contain lead and arsenic deposits in soil, Spilled or leaked liquids - oil, gasoline, solvents, herbicides, fuel combustion products (PAHs), Roofing shingles (asbestos), Air compressors, Transformers and Capacitors, Metals.

OIL CONTAMINATED GROUND.....SOLVENTS, WOOD PRESERVATIVES, SCRAP, WASTE WATER, CHEMICAL WEED ERADICATION, FAECAL MATTER, HAZARDOUS WASTE PRODUCTS... INFLAMMABLE LIQUIDS (FUELS), TOXIC SUBSTANCES, CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES, EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES, WASTE OIL: Waste oil group 1: Waste oils - for recycling, Waste oil group 2: Waste oils - for energy production, Waste oil group 3: Waste oils - disposal as refuse.

HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL ROUTES DEAD END IN AREAS WHERE MOST KIDS ARE BUSSED. (CREATING NEW LONGER BUS ROUTES, SITTING AT dangerous CROSSINGS NOT HERE BEFORE) RESTRICTION OF GREAT LENGTHS OF RURAL ROUTES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS FARM EQUIPMENT FORCED OUT ONTO MAJOR ROADWAYS INCREASING ACCIDENTS INCREASED DERAILMENTS/EXPLOSIONS OF HAZARDOUS/LETHAL CHEMICALS PERMANENT DAMAGE TO WATER/SOIL/AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY PROPERTY VALUES DROPPED FOR ALL ADJACENT LANDOWNERS ALONG THE ROUTE

FEARFUL ENVIRONMENT:

The landowners, farmers and agricultural industry across Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin were blindsided by a railway project touting quick take eminent domain for strictly private gain. Frank Patton and his Pls

spared no expense or amount of time meeting with and marketing to top officials rather than informing landowners and farmers along the 278 mile route. Thousands of landowners, farmers and taxpayers affected by one individuals pipe dream.....sponsored by investor groups including foreign interests hiding in the shadows using threats of eminent domain to frighten and intimidate. This is ludicrous and shameful that thousands of hard working people are forced to scramble to defend their property rights with only a few days notice while our tax dollars are being used to promote a project still going through the citing process at the STB. Marketing that conveys endorsementsee Samples of online advertising.

DISRUPTION OF PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT:

Agricultural land is the most precious resource for our nations' food production along with springs and waterways. Both are nonrenewable. Agriculture and ag-related industries contributed \$835 billion to the U.S. economy in 2014, a 4.8-percent share. America's farms contributed \$177.2 billion of this sum. Overall contributions related to ag—forestry, fishing, and related activities; food, beverages, and tobacco products; textiles, apparel, leather products; food service, food processing, restaurants, drinking establishments that rely on agriculture also contribute to the economy. U.S. ag exports in 2014 soared to a record \$152.5 billion (up from 2013's record of \$141 billion). Illinois agriculture contributes about @ \$120.9 billion. More than several other industries.....financial, transportation and construction industries and provides over 400,000 JOBS in Illinois. Agriculture contributes to Illinois' and the nations overall economic welfare. This project proposes to take 7-14,000 acres for the route and another 15,000 acres for a rail yard. That's 30,000 plus acres pulled from production with another probably 15-30,000 acres adjacent to the route from land locked parcels created by the route and its construction. We've lost 40+ million acres to unbridled development over the past few decades Between 1980-96 at a rate of 4.5 acres an hour in Illinois.....50 acres an hour nationwide.....many such developments lie vacant and abandoned due to poor planning, misappropriation, corruption, media manipulation and lack of merit leaving toxic waste leaching into soil and water for taxpayers to bear the burden of clean up. Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin have some of the most valuable farmland in the nation. Why would anyone allow a private investment spec project such as GLBT to cut through the very heart of such a vital industry to Illinois and the US economy? An industry that feeds our nation....our homeless, veterans and other nations.

Thousands of people living productive lives contributing to their communities stand to lose their lifetime's work, homes, and farms while private investor projects stand to disrupt the productive environment of the entire agricultural industry that helps feed our country and other nations. An industry Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin all depend on - one of top industries in all three states. An industry with a sense of home... community....security.....safety. This project has rocked our sense of security. Why would you shoot one of the best industries in the state of Illinois and the US in the foot? We've seen laws subverted for Illiana introduced by Frank Patton now removed for lack of merit. The hidden costs to taxpayers for Illiana have never been exposed. Frank Patton's pipe dream legacy.....what about the thousands farmers and landowners along the route that spent lifetimes of blood, sweat and tears building legacies for their children, grandchildren...some legacies passed down through generations. Mr. Patton continues his attempt to own a railroad possibly leaving just a trail of mass destruction. He touts jobs, quick take eminent domain, projected need.....all are false. GLBT is not a railroad - does not meet legal requirements to obtain eminent domain.....tactics used to intimidate and coerce. Minor job creation at the expense of hundreds of thousands of permanent existing jobs that sustain our state and US economy. Railways recently announced marked decline in capacity and existing railroads unwilling to switch cars away from Chicago. Illinois has infrastructure projects addressing congestion around Chicago. Logistically all the promises Frank Patton makes just don't add up at all. We are well aware of the economic conditions existing in this area as well as the adverse impact this project would have on the safety and productivity of our agricultural community. Contrary to assumptions about people in this area.....we don't live by media twist and spin.....we prefer to base our decisions on facts. We have done our research. And the fact of the matter is that Mr. Patton's project contains no contributions that outweigh the benefits, financially or otherwise, we currently enjoy here in our already very productive agricultural environment. The way these projects are presented needs to be changed now. It is unfair to constituents to be continually faced with heartless attempts to slide these projects in through back door politics. This project has terrorized hardworking people across three states and eleven counties.



our latest
most popular
contributors
subscribe

the FEDERALIST

Search ...



BUDGET

Wastebok 2014: Eight Absurd Government Projects Funded With Your Money

The feds wasted millions on mountain lion treadmills, synchronized swimming for sea monkeys, monkey gambling, and more.



By Sean Davis

OCTOBER 22, 2014

Email

Print

It's that time of year again: Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) just released Wastebok 2014, his annual list of the most wasteful government projects during 2014. Coburn's wastebok list includes a comprehensive analysis of 100 of the most wasteful government projects funded over the last year. The [full report](#), which includes detailed descriptions and investigations of every wasteful project, spans [more than 200 pages](#).

Here are eight of the most egregious and infuriating wasteful projects listed in Coburn's 2014 Wastebok report, which can be read in full [here](#).

1) \$171,000 To Study How Monkeys Gamble



Weather Report

Sheridan, Illinois

Weather Report · Interactive Map · Extended Forecast · Hourly Forecast · Past Observations · Historic Averages

Home · Local · Weather Report

Advertisements

National News

Current Conditions - °F | °C

As of 10:05 AM on Sunday 10 Apr 2016 (Local Time)

No Active Weather Alerts

Nearby Weather Stations

Learn More

Cloudy
45°F
Feels Like: 37°
Wind Chill: 37°
Heat Index: 45°
Dew Point: 30°
Humidity: 57%
Pressure: 29.86"
Ceiling: 4000
Visibility: 10mi
Wind: 19mph
Direction: 170°S
Gusts: 23mph
Raw METAR from closest station (KC09):
KC09 101315Z AUTO 17014G23KT 10SM OVC041 06/M01
A2984 RH16 A02 100641014

Weather at Chuck and Pats
Serena, IL
41.51°N, 88.74°W at 645ft
45.1°
13.8mph at 194°SSW
Updated 4s ago
[More Details](#)

Rural--2.75 mi WSW Sandwich...
Sandwich, IL
41.62°N, 88.65°W at 698ft
43.7°
8.0mph at 194°SSW
Updated 56s ago
[More Details](#)

Acres 6
Serena, IL
41.46°N, 88.77°W at 653ft
44.6°
11.4mph at 202°SSW
Updated 4m 10s ago
[More Details](#)

View detailed Observations
48 Hours · 14 Days

Personal Weather Stations provided by:



Click here for the Interactive Weather Map

STORM

BOATING PACKAGE

Download on the App Store

10-Day Weather Forecast

New forecast layout! Learn more

Graph Table Descriptive

Friday 04/15	Saturday 04/16	Sunday 04/17	Monday 04/18	Tuesday 04/19
66° 41° Clear	68° 45° Clear	71° 49° Clear	71° 50° Partly Cloudy	65° 45° Clear
0% / 0 in	0% / 0 in	0% / 0 in	10% / 0 in	20% / 0.05 in

Tuesday 04/12
A mainly sunny sky. High around 50F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.



Tuesday Night 04/12
0% / 0 in
Mostly clear. Low near 30F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.



Sun
6:18 am 7:32 pm



Moon
Waxing Crescent, 34% visible
10:40 am 12:32 am

Time Temp. Feels Like Dew Point Humidity Conditions Precip. Liquid Precip. Wind Cloud Cover Pressure

Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Click Here to Learn about this Proposed Rail Line

TRACK SEVERE WEATHER

STORM for iOS

INTELLICAST for Android

Same Great Versatility Easier Setup

WINEGARD CARRYOUT GE+

Buy Now

tunics UP TO 70% OFF

zully

SHOP NOW

Weather Report

Sheridan, Illinois

Weather Report · Interactive Map · Extended Forecast · Hourly Forecast · Past Observations · Historic Averages

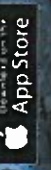
Current Conditions - °F | °C As of 9:25 AM on Friday 15 Apr 2016 (Local Time)

No Active Weather Alerts		Nearby Weather Stations		Learn More
 Sunny	60°F	Weather at Chuck and Pats Serena, IL 41.51°N, 88.74°W at 645ft	56.1° 3.5mph at 76°ENE Updated 1s ago More Details	Learn More
	Feels Like: 59°			
	Wind Chill: 59°			
	Heat Index: 60°			
	Dew Point: 35°			
 Wind:	11mph	Rural-2.75 mi WSW Sandwich, IL 41.62°N, 88.65°W at 698ft	57.1° 4.0mph at 74°ENE Updated 41s ago More Details	
	Direction: 110°ESE			
	Gusts: NA			
 Pressure:	30.24"	Arcis 6 Serena, IL 41.46°N, 88.77°W at 653ft	57.2° 0.0mph at 247°WSW Updated 2m 2s ago More Details	
Raw METAR from closest station (KC09): KC09 170455Z AUTO 04003KT 10SH CLR 13/05 A3030 RMK AO2 T01330046		Personal Weather Stations provided by: 		
View detailed Observations 48 Hours 14 Days				

Click here for the Interactive Weather Map

**STORM**

BOATING PACKAGE



10-Day Weather Forecast

Graph Table Descriptive

Friday 04/22	Saturday 04/23	Sunday 04/24	Monday 04/25	Tuesday 04/26
71° 44° 	77° 52° 	77° 58° 	75° 57° 	76° 50° 
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Chance of a Thunderstorm
20% / 0 in	0% / 0 in	20% / 0.04 in	20% / 0.09 in	40% / 0.19 in



Tuesday 04/26
Scattered thunderstorms, especially in the morning. High 76F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40%.



Tuesday Night 04/26
50% / 0.14 in
Mostly cloudy with showers and a few thunderstorms. Low around 50F. Winds S at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50%.



Sun
5:57 am 7:47 pm

Moon

Waning Gibbous, 86% visible
11:52 pm 0:04 am

Home » Local » Weather Report

Advertisements

National News



CHOOSE FROM A WIDE SELECTION OF TOP BRANDS



[SHOP NOW](#)



TRACK SEVERE WEATHER

**STORM** for iOS

**INTELLICAST** for Android



HARRY'S

Great Shave.
Fair Price.

The Choice is Simple.

[START A TRIAL](#)



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

[Click Here to Learn about this Proposed Rail Line](#)



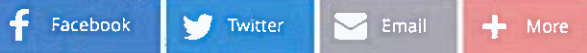


WHAT IF OFFICIALS DIDN'T GET PAID UNTIL THEY PAID THE STATE'S BILLS...


REBOOT ILLINOIS
REBOOT STAFF

JAN 22, 2014  847  0

[Like](#) Be the first of your friends to like this.

Share this article:


It's a drop in the bucket. But what a symbolic drop. As it hits the pail, that drop could echo across the prairie state.

A couple of Republican freshman lawmakers are gaining some fleeting attention for themselves with some legislation focused on legislators and elected officials.

State Rep. Charlie Meier, a Republican from downstate Okawville, has introduced a bill that would suspend the salaries of nearly all statewide officials and all legislators until the State of Illinois has paid in full all its past due bills.

An unnamed lobbyist told [The Illinois Observer](#) blog that Meier's measure "is a stunt."

Other legislation getting some attention this week includes some measures sponsored by state Rep. David McSweeney, a Barrington Hills Republican. The [Daily Herald](#) reported McSweeney has proposed measures to eliminate pensions for new state lawmakers entirely, and to cut lawmakers' district budgets by 10 percent. McSweeney estimates the 10 percent district budget cut would save \$1.3 million per year out of a \$33.7 billion budget.

Ending pensions for new legislators also would barely make a dent in the state's \$96 billion pension funding liability crisis. As it is, the General Assembly Retirement System fund for all legislators amounts to \$247 million, or less than one half of 1 percent of the state's total unfunded liability.

These measures, combined, add up to the proverbial drop in the state funding crisis bucket. They come from freshmen Republicans in a House controlled and run by Democrats who can do anything they want without any Republican votes should they chose to do so. The measures likely are on a fast track to the garbage pail.

And one wonders if we citizens would be facing another income or other general tax increase faster than we can say "drop in the bucket" if lawmakers did indeed have to come up with billions more in funds to pay off the \$9 billion or so in overdue state bills before they could be paid themselves.

The ideas do capture the imagination, don't they?

As one of our readers commented on Meier's bill, how about if elected officials just got paid about nine or so months' late, like so many providers of other state services do? It

SOCIAL SECURITY SHUTDOWN

[palmbeachgroup.com](#)

Born before 1969? You can get an extra \$4,098 monthly with this



IT'S TIME TO PUT THE PEOPLE FIRST JOIN US TO REBOOT ILLINOIS

GET OUR FREE DAILY EMAIL

EDITOR'S PICKS



How the new progressive income tax plan is like giving lawmakers a...



Illinois state crime lab takes a year to test rape kits, Alvarez says



Uber opens fifth office in Chicago



Bid to save Lucas Museum relies on complex financing plan



Chicago Teachers Union chief to parents on possible strike: "Be..."



OBAMA URGES HOMEOWNERS TO PAY OFF THEIR HOUSE AT A FURIOUS PACE IF THEY HAVE NOT MISSED A PAYMENT IN 6 MONTHS

If you owe less than \$625,000 on your home, use Obama's once in a lifetime mortgage relief program. The program is totally