

Citizens against "The great lakes basin railroad"

March 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a private citizen and a supporter of our local farming community to go on record and to urge you to not support The Great Lakes Basin railroad project from Milton Wisconsin to Michigan City Indiana. This project could prove to be harmful to the farming communities that it will affect.

Although our counties may see some short term benefits, we believe that the long term damage would outweigh these benefits. This railroad projects real consequences for the citizens their property and possibly their livelihoods not to mention the potential negative impact on the environment. Eminent domain which has been suggested would be used to obtain the necessary farm land to construct the railroad that will permanently carve through our counties. Farms, often held by generations of families will be land locked and divided which creates a loss in revenue for those who rely on the farming industry. Not to mention the decrease in property values for farmers and residents of these counties.

The past has shown that when eminent domain is enforced financial settlements to property owners are not fairly calculated for the true economic loss sustained. Financial settlements in these situations rarely take into consideration the decrease in land value due to the visual, noise and restricted use of property caused by the high speed railroad.

My other concern would be if the funds that the railroad has projected to complete this project are inadequate, who will bear the burden of the financial short coming? If this project claims to be a private endeavor we adamantly oppose this burden being placed on our taxpayers.

I appreciate the opportunity to tell you my concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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Surface Transportation Board

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