

Kathrine Gill
8833 Fairdale Rd
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Dave Navecky & Surface Transportation Board,

I'm writing in protest to the Great Lakes Basin Rail Road Proposal Docket No FD-35952. It was suggested that letters be written contain facts about the damage this proposed rail road would do to our land, environment, etc. I'm sure you have received many letters with very valid facts and evidence of the destruction the Great Lakes Basin Rail Road would cause. However, I wish to share with you a different, more person set of facts about what devastation this project would cause my family and myself. While these are only personal facts I believe they are just as valid. Many of us in the area share similar feelings, and will experience a similar personal loss.

In the last three years I have lost both my grandparents. After the passing of my grandparents my husband and I made the decision to purchase my grandparents' home. We moved in almost exactly one year ago. Our house was built by my grandfather 30+ years ago and sits on 6.5 quiet, peaceful acers in the country. The house, complete with many irreplaceable details hand crafted with love by my grandfather who was a master carpenter. At the age of 50 my grandparents would retire in this house & knew they would die in this house. At the age of 30 my husband and I had planned to someday do the same.

My aging parents who have also lived in their home for 30+ years live less than a football field away from us. My parents have worked much of their adult life on this land and made their living there. My mother cared for both of her ageing parents as they neared the end of their life, allowing them both to stay in the home that meant so much to them. My hope, when in moving in to my grandparents' home, living next door to my parents, that I could give them the same loving care my mother gave her parents.

However, this rail road project is slated to be put right over top of my parent's beloved vegetable garden, less than 100 feet away from their home. Forcing them to leave there home. This puts the rail road about 190 yards from our home but not directly on our property. While we will not be forced to leave we will be forced to live next to the train tracks and not next to my parents who need my help.

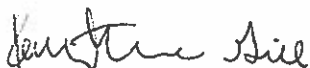
Being so close to these tracks also put us and our pets in immediate danger if there is a derailment or a chemical spill. Having several pets of our own as well as many foster pets' makes evacuation very difficult for us. We cannot quickly walk out the door we would need to pack up several dogs, cats & birds before we could leave. This would be time consuming task to evacuate them all. You might say, just leave them behind. I can assure you, this is not an option for us, our pets are our family, our children. They will not be left behind. Ever.

Please consider the impact the Great Lakes Basin Rail Road will have not only on the environment, farmers, wildlife and rivers. Please also consider the impacts it will have on people, pets and families.

Please feel free to contact me at the address above or by phone at 815-494-1387 or email at KathrineGill@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Kathrine Gill

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