

FD 35952

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Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Docket# FD35952

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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter as a concerned citizen in the proposed path of the Great Lakes Basin Transportation railroad (GLBT) that will affect hundreds of families directly and thousands of families indirectly.

I have many concerns for my local community. We already have two railroad lines in my town and one of which blocks emergency service access to 2500 residents. There is one road that goes around. The proposed GLBT route will block and shut down that road which will add 45 minutes for ambulances and other emergency services to get to my neighborhood.

I am also very concerned about the environmental impact this railroad will have. We live in prime farmland in Northern Illinois. Farmland that is responsible for feeding millions of people. The more development that happens the less able we are to provide corn, soybeans, and other essential crops to the rest of the country. The proposed route will destroy wetlands and hundreds of other essential farm fields and grazing lands.

I have two small children and I also worry about safety. I worry about having so many trains coming through on a daily basis and I also worry about train accidents.

If you listen to GLBT railroad discuss this project they will say that it has solid backing from all involved. I know lots of citizens in my area that are very concerned about the proposed railroad. I also wonder why a railroad with so much supposed backing wants to and has kept their investors private. As citizens in the proposed area we have a right to know who's paying for this project as well as an opportunity to criticize something we feel is an unneeded invasion into our homes and neighborhoods.

I strongly urge the board to deny GLBT's request to build the rail road because of three reasons:

- Environmental impact on habitats and well as prime farmland
- Inability to explain why this project is needed when so many class 1 railroads have said they don't want it or need it
- Eminent domain is only used for projects that promote the good of the public. If the public doesn't want it, and the railroad can't properly explain how it serves the public good the project needs to be denied.

- A lack of transparency on who the investors are and how this project is being paid for. Without this they could take everyone's land and then fail halfway through the project due to lack of finances and the environment will have already been destroyed.

I urge you to deny their application for the above stated reasons.

If you would like to contact me and discuss this matter further, please mail me at the address at the top of this letter.

Thank you for taking the time to address my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Garcea