

Barbara Beaver
3553 Belshaw Road
Lowell, IN 46356
April 2, 2016

RE: Docket No. FD35952

Mr. Navecky,

I am writing to submit my concerns about the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. rail line transversing Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties in Indiana.

To give you insight into my background, I was born and raised in East Chicago, Indiana, a once booming industrial city with constant rail traffic. Not only was the noise unbearable, but the dirt and potential for hazardous and toxic accidents was always present, not to mention the continual disruption of automobile traffic. It was my lifelong dream to live in a quiet, rural area without the sights, sounds, smells and dangers that were always present in my childhood.

I have now been a 22-plus year resident of Belshaw Road in Lowell, Indiana, living just to the East of Buckley Homestead approximately one mile North of the Conway Observatory. The proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation rail line is in my direct line of site and audible distance from my home. My husband has been retired for a number of years and my retirement will occur within the next four years at the latest. Part of our retirement financial planning is to reap the rewards of maintaining our home on one of the most desirable pieces of property in South Lake County. We are bordered by Buckley Homestead County Park on the West and North and the land to the East and South is privately owned and farmed by a local farmer. The construction of this rail line will devalue my property to where my retirement financial status will be so tremendously impacted we will have few options for our future care and well-being. We will either need to attempt to sell this property for far less than what it is worth and what we expected to gain for retirement and elder care or let it fall into squalor without proper maintenance as it would be foolish to continue to put money into a home with a value far less than we bought it for and maintained. We might be forced to remain, not being able to cover our propane and electrical costs or just abandon it and lose everything. Not only does this sadden us, it frightens us as we have no family or other resource to turn to for financial assistance.

The rail traffic, which could be up to 110 runs a day, amounting to one about every 10 to 15 minutes, will not only be a total nuisance visually and audibly in my old age, but presents a hazard to the town of Lowell and its residents, particularly the children attending Lowell

Middle School. This rail line is proposed to run within 700 feet of that school. Although the construction of this line might provide temporary employment, the long term affects will be permanent *and* there is no financial benefit to Lake County. The benefactor will be Great Lakes Basin Transportation, amounting to huge profits and savings at the expense of the lives of those living in this area. My concern is the hazardous materials that flow through the area, with the potential of fire accidents and contamination of our ground well water in addition to the danger both physically, visually and audibly as well as financially to ourselves, the farmers and residents in this area. Out in a rural area, sound travels loudly and quickly. There will be no peace; it will be worse than the whirr of a wind turbine. A sound abatement barrier would more than likely not compensate for the disruption. Wouldn't use of the existing Norfolk and Southern rail line farther south of Lowell be a more logical selection? The citizens there have *chosen* to live in close proximity to a rail line. It was not *forced* upon them.

Just because Great Lakes Basin Transportation *can* construct this hazard, does not mean they *should*! Since I have heard about this project I am not sleeping well and find myself in constant worry about our future and the future living environment for everyone in the town of Lowell and surrounding areas. My husband and I are totally against this proposal and do not want them here. We will be forceful and diligent with our fight to block this.

Go away!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Beaver". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name being more prominent.

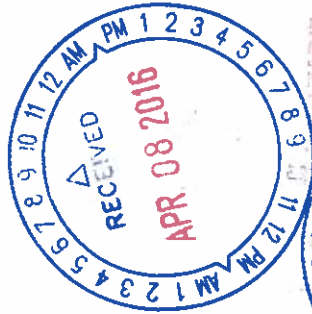
Barbara Beaver
bbjb00@hotmail.com
219-552-4006

Barbara Beaver
3553 Belshaw Road
Lowell, IN 46356

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7015 0640 0006 5468 1702



Mr. Dave Mavecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



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