

Dave Navecky
Safety Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
May 3, 2016

Dear Mr. Dave Navecky,

We would like to comment on the GLB business proposal for a new rail line traveling through three states and ending in Milton, WI. We have a five acre farm two miles from Clinton, WI. The scoping meeting sponsored by the Surface Transportation Board Office of Environmental Analysis was at Craig High School in Janesville, WI on April 18th and was very interesting and informative. Several people spoke to the committee about the impact this rail line would have on their property, lives and the community. We did not hear one person telling this committee that they thought it would be a benefit.

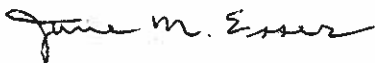
We learned the train would pass very close to homes, businesses and farms as well as cutting valuable farmland in half. Our home will also be impacted by this proposal. It will pass by our home within 127 feet of our property line at 70 miles per hour day and night. The trains are projected to run every 15 minutes with 120 trains proposed per day and a possibility of running two or more rail lines. Illinois may have four to five lines. When would anyone be able to use the roads or even get a good night's sleep? We would be concerned about the intermittent stream near our home, noise, pollution, water runoff, lights, hazardous waste, vibrations on our limestone basement, the well contamination or destruction, and especially the lower property value. Other concerns we have would involve the emergency responses by the police, fire department, and ambulances.

Two roads near us and the Tiffany/ Pelishek Trail are impacted by this route all within two blocks of each other and this is at 70 miles per hour. Many cars, trucks, farm equipment, semi's, police, ambulances, fire trucks, bicycles, walkers, and runners use the two roads. The Tiffany/Pelishek trail have snowmobiles, walkers, runners, and horseback riders affected by this rail line. People need these roads to commute to work, school, appointments, and leisure activities.

Many of the farms in this area are businesses with a business plan, lawyers, accountants, and agriculture advisors all working on keeping the farms and soil as productive and healthy as possible. They are stewards of this valuable soil found nowhere else. Many are caretakers of this land for generations. Their lives, animals, fields, water, buildings and incomes will be negatively impacted. The railroads will not provide the counties and state with any of the revenue that will be lost by the GLB's proposal for acquiring this productive land. They will not pay taxes. The lost farmland will never be productive again with food for the population of the world or ethanol from the corn grown here.

We do not see the need for the GLB to force our citizens to accept the destruction and disruption their proposal will cause. There are other rail lines that exist for the GLB to use rather than putting forth this proposal. The GLB has the option of changing the existing route by thirty miles on either side of the proposed route. Amazing that they should have an option like this. They also are going to run electricity along the route and maybe pipelines. The corridor planned is 200 feet wide. Why do they need so much land for the proposed rail line? How can the GLB think it is ok to force others off their land with the idea to make money for themselves and other investors? It seems like greed to me. The railroads have already made some progress on a solution to the congestion around Chicago with a plan entitled "CREATE". We do not see the need for the GLB that will effect so many lives just because an older retired man dreams of this GLB as a legacy for his grandchildren. The farmers and others would like to see a legacy they have worked so hard to achieve for their children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

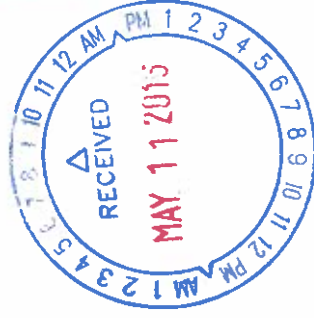


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