

5/20/17

Mr. Ken Blodgett

Surface Transportation Board

Docket # FD 35952

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Mr. Blodgett,

My husband and I are preparing to retire on July 1, 2017. We are devastated by what the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. is proposing for our area. We have been to numerous committee meetings and county board meetings and cannot believe that this private entrepreneur would be allowed to disrupt the entire southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and northern Indiana region. One of the proposed routes for this new railroad passes right across the street from our home, 200 feet from our front door.

My husband is sixty-nine years old and I am turning sixty-five in July of this year. We have been in our home twenty-three years and have raised two beautiful daughters here; both are now in the medical field here in Rockford, Illinois. We have spent the last five years renovating our home, including adding an 18' x 22' sun four-season room with hot tub, remodeling two bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, front porch, front and back steel doors, and adding all new wood interior doors. Currently we are replacing all windows and wood frames and remodeling the kitchen and dining room area. We are doing all of this in preparation for retirement. Presently our home is valued at \$225,000. If this railroad proposal is approved, our home we have worked so hard to update will be worth nothing.

We will not be able to sell our home, downsize, or relocate to a warmer climate. We will not be able to sleep at night, due to constant noise from constant railroad trains running 200 feet from our front door. We understand many streets will be closed to accommodate the railroad, causing no easy access to grocery stores, hospitals, emergency services, and the neighboring city of Rockford, Illinois where both of our daughters live. Right now, our girls are twenty minutes away from us. Other huge concerns are the number of trains scheduled to use these tracks, the speed they will travel, and the hazardous material they will be carrying. This is just how this railroad will affect my family. We moved here from Roselle, Illinois to get away from the hustle and bustle of the bigger city of Roselle/Schaumburg, Illinois. We wanted to raise our daughters in a quiet country setting.

What about the thousands of other families who have lived in this area for years, some for generations? The farmland in this region will be largely destroyed. The Rockford airport will be affected. Indian burial grounds will be torn up. Environmental wetlands will not be protected. The noise and air pollution will be unbearable. All of this is due to Frank Patton wanting to leave the legacy of a railroad for his

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family??? What about all the families he is destroying? Mr. Patton should not be allowed to use Eminent Domain for private investor gain, especially at the expense of so many others.

Every effected county board in Illinois has passed resolutions voting against this railroad. With this fact, how is the GLBT being allowed to continue their pursuit of this project? We ask that the Great Lakes Basin Transportation be given a final extension for an actual status update, no longer being allowed to postpone indefinitely. We also request that the application for authority to construct and operate a new line under 49 U.S.C. 10901(a) and 49 C.F.R. 1150.1 be considered withdrawn if not provided at the specific deadline. A NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE!.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Larry and Debbie Brady
9320 Harrison Road
Rockton, IL 61072