

ATTN: Dave Navecky - Docket No. FD35952

Surface Transportation Board

Office of Environmental Analysis

395 E. Street

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

We would like to express our concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, LLC rail line project. Docket # FD-35952. We oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal.

We have concerns for the environmental impact. Many acres of woodlands, wetlands and prairie will be lost and destroyed. This will endanger not only plant life, but bird and wildlife habitat. We question what will happen to our soil and water resources especially if there is an accident. They along with the air would be contaminated, and effect not just local farming, but residents as well. Many of us have wells that we are concerned about.

Another environmental issue is the noise of 110 trains per day and the diesel fumes from that many trains. This number of trains is an average of a little more than four trains an hour, that is one train every fifteen minutes. It would be constant noise, vibrations and fumes.

We also have concerns on the economic impact this rail line will make for our area. We have just recently moved here in order to live in a more rural and quiet area. We just move from traffic and rail congestion. With this rail line so close to our home we know the value on our home will decrease.

This is an area of farming and many acres of farmland will be taken out of production. This will not only result in loss of income for local farmers, but for the entire area. Some farms will be divided by the rail line making it difficult to access fields and costing farmers as they go out of their way to reach their fields. Some farms may be totally lost.

It is our understanding that this is going to cost the taxpayers since this proposal will receive money from the Federal Government. Mr. Frank Patton is a private investor that has had no experience with the rail industry. We understand there are other private investors that have not been named to the public. It is also our understanding that none of the railroads are supporting this proposed project. Union Pacific is all ready working on a project that will improve rail service and efficiency in the Chicago area. With all of this in mind it appears that Great Lakes Basin may fail, leaving private investors protected from their financial loss and the taxpayers with a bill for a nonexistent rail line. Is this money that is going to be well spent? We ask that you seriously consider the economic impact to our area and to all taxpayers.

We have concerns for the well-being and safety of our community and surrounding area. Along with our concern for derailment and hazardous spills creating environmental issues, we have concerns for our Volunteer First Responders not being equipped to handle such incidents. They will need additional training, equipment and resources in order to be prepared. Again this creates greater tax burdens on our community.

In a rural area, roads are important. With the Great Lakes Basin running through here there will be some roads left open and others will be closed leaving dead ends. This will slow response time for First Responders going to emergencies. These delays will result in more extensive property damage and physical injury to people, or even loss of life. As you know it is crucial to have quick responses to victims of heart attacks and strokes, so that they might have a better and more complete recovery.

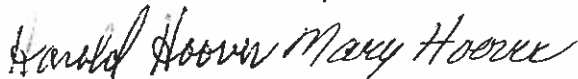
The majority of children in our area are bused to school. With road closers and long wait times possible at rail road crossings this will mean longer bus routes. This is not only inconvenient to the children and their families, but it also raises safety and financial concerns. With bus routes being changed because of road closers, how many times will the busses have to cross the tracks to get to school? Longer bus routes mean longer rides on winter roads. Longer bus routes means more money spent on fuel and bus maintenance.

Now on a more personal note. As stated earlier in this letter, we have just move here in the last year. We moved from rail noise and traffic congestion hoping to find a slower and more quiet life style. We have found it in this rural farm community. We are not alone in feeling this way. The majority of people here treasure and value their rural heritage and lifestyle. Help us keep it and deny the proposed Great Lakes Transportation, LLC rail line Docket # FD-35952.

Thank you for considering our concerns about this proposal.

Respectfully,

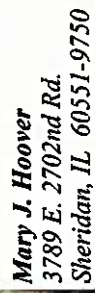
Harold Hoover & Mary Hoover

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harold Hoover Mary Hoover", written in dark ink.

3789 E. 2702nd Rd.

Sheridan, Illinois 60551

Date: April 26, 2016



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BOOK REVIEW

