

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

April 20, 2016

Dear Mr. Navecky

My name is Dixie Mende . On April 19, 2016 I attended the Public Scoping Meeting held in Belvidere, IL regarding the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line Environmental Impact on Boone County. For over 2 hours, I listened ,as you also did, to the multiple concerns of the people whose very way of life is threatened. I know you heard about the homes and schools near proximity to this proposed GLB line and the human concerns of land invasion, the aquifer, the Nicor gas lines, multiple road cut offs and changes, disruption of fire and emergency services, the destroying of livelihoods and the effects on the resources of this land of which so many have tried to be good Stewards.

Our home farm is on the Boone county DeKalb County line with some of our land touching near the 193 mile marker of the proposed route that goes through a dense woods, but the 192 mile marker of the proposed route is on 50 acres of our most fertile land. May 2015 we paid \$1645.28 real estate taxes on this 50 acres it is so fertile. \$1233.78 of those taxes went to support the schools. I can't imagine the huge amount of tax dollars that would be lost to Boone County by huge amounts of productive land taken from the tax rolls for the GLB Railroad. I'm sure that the railroads do not pay anything like what would be lost. Loss taxes are a Human environmental impact of great magnitude to us that I did not hear addressed in the 2 1/2 hours I was at the meeting.

I would like to address the concerns near the 193 and 192 mile markers. The dense woods near the 193 marker would be torn out to make this railway. Trees are not only part of the wildlife refuge around here, but lest anyone forget to mention, trees are necessary for the carbon dioxide oxygen cycle necessary for life. This I would think would be a primary environmental concern to keep our planet oxygen levels. Another concern is the use of good soil to make the embankments for the railroad tracts and heavy equipment compaction of the soil. The embankments themselves would cause problems with rain runoff and normal water flow to our adjoining field. A note of interest is all along the west side of Pearl Street is buried the 911 fiber optic cable that was put in just a few years ago. The proposed GLB Railroad would also disrupt this fiber optics.

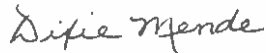
A viewing close-up of the Google maps has indicated that the proposed GLB line would cross the present Canadian Northern [the old IL Central] near the 192 mile mark. Our fertile 50 acre field is that 192 mile mark and is approximately 12 feet lower than the existing Canadian Northern Railroad tracks. Where the proposed GLB line would intersect with the Canadian Northern would create a dam for any storm rain water. There are 3 openings along our land under the Canadian Northern RR for water to get to the Kishwaukee River tributary Kingsbury Creek, which is on our land. I've seen a 100 acres of our land along the Canadian Northern RR flooded after a heavy 3-4 inch rain. Another Rail line would compound the problem for us and our neighbor on the north side of the Canadian Northern Railroad.

On the north side of the Canadian Northern running along the tract embankment are high power electric lines. These can be seen as white crosses on the Google maps. They are in close proximity of where the 2 railroads would cross. The proposed GLB would have to be elevated to the 12 foot mark of the present Canadian Central railroad and the embankment would be touching one of the existing towers. Is the electric company aware of this?

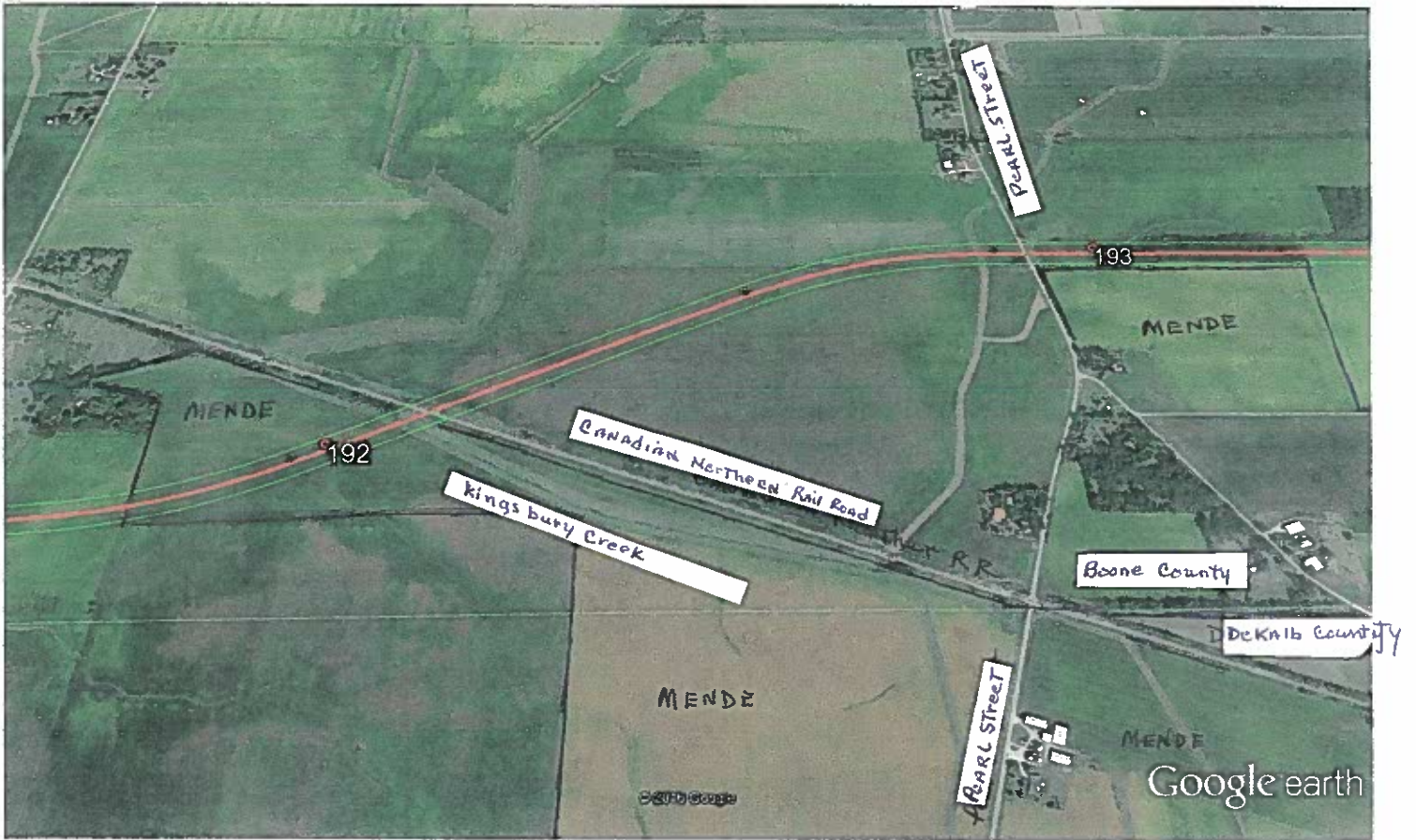
This 50 acres would virtually be lost to us for what would be left of it would be cut off by the 2 railroads and no road access across the creek from the west. Not only would we lose 50 acres of good farm land, but Boone County would lose over \$1600 a year in taxes.

I have tried to present some of the facts as I see them in an unemotional manner, but I assure you we have deep feelings about our land and the stewardship of it.

Sincerely,



Dixie Mende
35820 Pearl Street
Kirkland, IL 60146



Google earth

feet
km

3000
1

W N E
S

Robert Lee Mende Farm
35820 Pearl St
Kirkland, IL 60146



Google earth

feet 2000
meters 700



Robert Lee Mende Farm
35820 Pearl Street
Kirkland, IL 60146



Google earth

feet 500
meters 100



Robert Lee Mende
35820 Pearl Street
Rivkland, IL 60146



Google earth

feet 400
meters 100



Robert Lee Mende
35820 Pearl Street
Kirkland, IL 60146

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lee Mende
35820 Pearl Street
Kirkland, IL 60146

CAROL STREAM IL 601

21 APR 2016 PM 6:1



DAVE NAVECKY
Surface Transportation Board
Docket NO. FD 35952
395 E STREET SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001



204230001

