

Mike Bratt

EI-25283

I am opposed to approval & implementation of the Great Lakes Basin railroad for several reasons – personal, quality of life and environmental are some examples.

Tonight I'm focused on potential environmental issues the board needs to consider.

1. Impact upon the drainage basins of the Kishwaukee & Rock Rivers and Kilbuck Creek.
2. There are at least two pairs of nesting eagles along or near the proposed crossing of the Rock river south of the Rockford airport. The Bald & Golden eagle protection act includes and requires the consideration of the impact and disturbance of these birds habitat during and after construction when high volumes of traffic will be present.
3. The proposed track bi-sects two landfills on the Winnebago & Ogle county lines. I believe consideration and analysis is required to ensure there is no long term impact on the safety and integrity of these landfills.
4. Non-environmentally, there already exists a north/south railroad connecting Rockford's airport to the railroad in Rochelle. The current proposed railroad around through these counties is redundant and un-needed given the accessibility of rails already in place.