



Docket No. FD35952 concern letter
heritagefarm83 to: david.navecky

06/24/2016 04:26 PM

1 attachment



Safety concern voiced to the Surface Transportation board.docx

Dear Mr. Navecky,
Please see the attached letter for my concerns with the Great Lakes
Basin Railroad.
Thank you for allowing us to voice our concern.
Barb Sager

My name is Barb Sager and I am a Trustee for the Capron Rescue Squad District, which is the EMS provider for the northern half of Boone County, and I am concerned with the Safety of both the people who live in Boone County and those traveling through. If the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad slices its way north and south through the heart of farming country, changing road demographics and holding up travel, I fear our safety will be the grim result of this “progress”.

There are a few concerns which I would like to address:

First of all will be the lengthened response time of our ambulance which is stationed in Capron and needing to respond to a chest pain call in the 17,000 block of LeRoy Center Road. This could go from a normal two minute response time to a 5minute...or 10 minute delay if this same ambulance is waiting at North Boone School road for the train to pass...depending on the number of cars or tankers it is pulling.

Each minute that the ambulance is delayed creates an even more emergent situation...if that patient with chest pain had a cardiac event while they were waiting, their rhythm could deteriorate from sinus rhythm to a heart block, or ventricular fibrillation and even worse, a cardiac arrest. Time is of the essence...those extra couple of minutes...or 5 or 10 could mean the difference between life... or death....

But the impact is not just in response time. All of the heart centers, stroke centers and our Level 1 Trauma Center is in Rockford. Should a patient on the east side of this project require the services of one of these facilities and should a train block the route the potential for a negative outcome rises drastically with every passing minute. Patients requiring transport to these facilities are critical and are truly in a situation where every minute counts. The only other option would be to utilize an air ambulance, but the cost to the patient would be extreme. Most air ambulances charge \$1000 per mile plus a response fee.

But it is not only for ambulances; time is of the essence for Fire Departments and Law Enforcement responses also.

A review of the impact of the GLB project would not be complete without an honest assessment of the impact of an accident or derailment. Should there be an incident, there are no public safety organizations in the region who has the adequate capabilities to handle it. Should there be a fire, an explosion or toxic materials incident, time for adequate resources to be on scene will be measured in hours, not minutes. And if that toxic material incident would happen as the train travels within 850 feet of Capron Elementary land, at the west edge of the Village of Capron, the outcome would be grim, especially when Capron Elementary has the Pre-School program for students with special needs for the North Boone School District.

Another concern is traveling on our roads by Boone County residents as well as those just traveling through. I am thinking of our senior citizens who have to contemplate the speed of this train as it roars through our quite countryside...or will it force them to stay at their residents, fearful of traveling to town, to church, or for shopping...not wanting to put themselves in harms way. And our school buses which will have to cross these train tracks multiple times with each bus route...stopping and starting each time they approach and cross the track. I am also fearful for the students who travel North Boone School Road to get to school, sporting events or club activities....how long will it be until a car full of teens, fearful of being late for school, a football game or another event, will try to beat that train. I just cringe to think of it!

My list of concerns could go on and on....But we are concerned that this proposed rail line will adversely affect our public safety and therefore, we ask you, the Surface Transportation Board, not grant the Great Lakes Basin Railroad an exemption, but instead require a full and rigorous Environmental Impact Study.

Thank you

