

Stanley Motter

When I registered to be one of the people to make comments I thought there would be donuts.

First I would like to thank the STB Board for listening at all of these scoping meetings.

I know that you can't answer questions, but I think if some of the statements are made in question form, like Jeopardy it makes the brain easier to process.

As for an environmental issue that probably will be reoccurring throughout the entire proposed railway is water and water runoff. The impact will be far reaching because of the flat topography, surface and subsurface water flow has to travel a great distance. A raised railway bed would change or completely stop water flows as we know it. What will be done to guarantee long-term resolutions as they occur after construction is done?

On the merit side the class one railways who are many;

BNSF, UNION PACIFIC, CANADIAN NATIONAL, CANADIAN PACIFIC, CFX, NORTHFOLK, KANSAS SOUTHERN, AND AMTRACK I might have missed some but if these railroads haven't built a bypass, why should Great Lakes Basin think it is a viable endeavor?

With the economy as it is, farmers have looked into cost cutting and becoming as efficient as possible. Railroads have taken the same stance, if this is such a good idea, this proposed adventure I think would have been talked or introduced before now. Hedging your investment by adding 50 feet to lease out to utilities, is this something that you as the STB can even grant? Does this group have solid customers waiting to use this railroad or is it just speculation?

Every minute 3 acres are lost to urban sprawl, some of this I'm sure are marginal farmland acres but most of the land being disrupted with this project are prime top producing land in the country, if not the world. With all the small rail-lines

(short lines) right of ways are already in place maybe connecting them could be an alternative.

In closing tomorrow is Earth Day, farmers really entertain this day every day of the year.

I may not be the first to sell, I probably won't be the last, I just not going to sell!

Thank – you for your time to listen to my concerns.