

March 17, 2016

Dear Mr. Navecky,

As being a land owner in Boone and LaSalle County in the state of Illinois, I am greatly concerned about the Great Lakes Basin Railroad that is being proposed to run through both of the above counties in Illinois.

It seems that no thought was put into the routing of the railroad, with an S turn in swamp land and routings within 200 feet of homes and schools. There is a safety concern for our community. Also many properties will be split and unable to be utilized by their owners. Railroads were generally thought to go in a straight line, yet this one seems to go in many different directions, which with each turn gives more chance of a derailment and destruction of our precious farm land in Boone County. Boone County is known for its rich agricultural heritage. But this railroad bisecting our county in half will put much farm land at risk of being divided and making our farm land more difficult to farm and harder or impossible to make a living in our community.

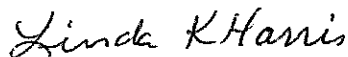
Boone County has many commuters that travel eastward towards the Chicago suburbs, thus making travel to work and school more difficult and dangerous. To put this railroad east of the Interstate 39/90 corridor seems to defy the logic of keeping it away from the more populated areas keeping the public safe. Boone County will not benefit from this and will have our county split in half. Travel in the county will be more hazardous by having so many railroad crossings bisect busy community roads. Thus causing fire and ambulance service response calls to be even longer then they are today, putting the safety of our residents of our community at risk.

It seems a blatant disregard for the county residents the way the routing comes within 200 feet of many residents' homes and schools. Many home owners will lose much of their investment savings in their homes and will change the quiet landscape of our county.

While trying to keep Boone County a farming county, I know that the big picture shows Chicago suburbs along Interstate 90 all the way to Madison, Wisconsin. By putting the railroad through Boone County the logic of keeping it away from populated areas loses its argument. By the time the railroads finished, Boone County could be as populated as the counties east of us.

In writing this letter I see no gains coming to Boone County in Illinois, but only problems to be had. Therefore as a taxpayer and landowner in two counties that the railroad will go through I am opposed to this routing and hopeful that this railroad will not be supported as is. At the least for safety and population sake it needs to be west of the Interstate 39/90 corridor between Rockford, Illinois and Madison, Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time,



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