

6 Ventnor Ct.
Hebron, IN 46341
May 20, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I have grave concerns regarding the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line as it passes through Indiana.

My concerns are:

I'm told this project will bring jobs. With that I agree; however, I disagree with the permanence of these jobs and that local residents will be employed.

Jobs, yes. To prepare the land. To bring in the ballast. To make the railroad ties and truck them in. To bring in the track and then to lay that track. These jobs will primarily not be filled by local residents.

Then when the project is complete, all these jobs will disappear. Few -- if any -- local residents will be employed to maintain the track and crossings. These jobs will be by railway crews who are brought in.

I'm told this project will bring economic vitality to the area. I certainly don't see my home value appreciating because of its proximity to the rail line. Most of what I purchase isn't brought to my house on a spur line. What I will see is a decline in property values, and thus a decline in town and county revenue.

I don't see farmland appreciating due to its proximity to the rail line. What I do see is increased use of diesel for farmers to drive a mile east then a mile south then a mile west to get to the other side of their field. Wear and tear on equipment: tractors, combines, sprayers.

I see also an increase in diesel with school busses lengthening routes to transport students. Gone is the county road that's the shortest route to their school. Gone is the quick access for emergency personnel. Paramedics, EMT's, and volunteer firefighters will take longer to get to the station and then to the fire.

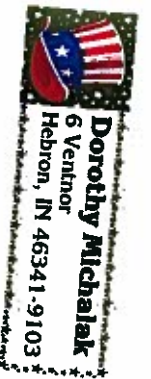
The Great Lakes Basin Rail Line is not needed in this area. Continue to use the rail lines already in place.

Please take these above concerns into consideration and relocate the tracks away from Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy Michalak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'M'.

Dorothy Michalak



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Mr. Dave McVeeley

Avulgar Transportation Board

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