

Mr. David K. Guest

1225 Tilton Pk. Dr.

Rochelle. IL 61068

Phone # 815-562-7423

April 23, 2016

ATTN: Dave Navecky-Docket No. FD35952

Surface Transportation Board

Office of Environmental Analysis

395 E. Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

My name is David K. Guest, I am 87 years of age, and I am an attorney who has practiced law in the city of Rochelle, Illinois, for more than 60 years. My sister, Maurine Hoeppner, and I own adjoining farms in sections 26 and 27 in Lynnville Township on Chamberlain Road in Ogle County, Illinois. One farm is a Centennial Farm and the other adjoining farm will be cut in half by the proposed rail line.

These farms have been in our family for four generations. Our great grandfather, Alvin Countryman, and his brother, Harvey Countryman, lived in a sod house and were the first to till the prairie soil at this location. The general area which included these farms was then known as "Stingy Slough" and was quite wet.

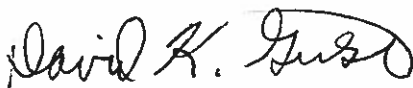
The route of the proposed railroad cuts the west farm in two. There is no access to the cut-off portion of this west farm from Mulford Road, and it will be difficult and very expensive to obtain proper access to the cut-off portion of this farm.

Both farms are served by a drainage ditch and elaborate tile drainage field which provide proper crop drainage.

It would be very expensive to put in a new drainage system to serve both farms after construction of the proposed rail line at this farm location. It might be necessary also to construct various water retention ponds at this area and bear the problems and expensive maintenance costs that they could present.

Consequently, I on my own behalf and on behalf of my sister, urge that the proposal on behalf of the Great Lakes Basin rail project be rejected.

Respectfully Submitted by



David K. Gust
1225 Tilton Park Drive
Rockelle, Illinois 61068



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