



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

EI-24673

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link and then clicking on "Environmental Comments."

Please refer to Docket No. FD 35952 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is May 16, 2016.

Dear Board, ^{May 18th JUNE 15}

Mr. Patton contends his railroad will be an "economic asset" to the communities - It is not a summer! Our economics are the crop yields and agricultural land use! A railroad adds nothing through our land instead it reduces our crop yield with its presence. The weight of the tracks and trains can break our tile which helps drain our fields. With the tile breaking the fields will be too wet for crops to be planted - reduce our yield. With every train we must be aware of an accident which can contaminate our fields, water, and air! Please stop the petition!

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment or some Other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

Jim Lipe Austgen

15080 County Line Road

Nevison Indiana 46341

219-769-8521

jc.austgen@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Rd
Hebron, IN 46341

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IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board

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Dear Board, *May 5th JUNE 15*

The proposed railroad will be 500 feet from my house! The noise and air pollution will be detrimental to my health and my husband's. He has Parkinson's Disease and is home bound. There have been medical studies that the noise and vibration from railroad can cause heart problems. For my husband's condition, the noise and vibration could accelerate the disease because of the stress it will cause. For the body to have proper rest the environment is to quiet and serene. The railroad would destroy that quiet! Please deny the petition. *Thank You!*

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NAME:

Jan Lape Austgen

ADDRESS:

15880 County Line Road

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:

Nebron, Illinois 60341

PHONE:

219-741-8521

E-MAIL:

jaustgen@yahoo.com

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Surface Transportation Board

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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Rd
Hebron, IN 46341

STANDARD MAIL

IL 604

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Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board

ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952

395 E Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



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Dear Board,

May 23rd JUNE 15

The farmer who rents my land planted his crop yesterday and within ten days the seeds will grow. The miracle from God will once again begin! The rent goes toward paying my taxes, but if the railroad goes through the farmer leaving my land will no longer do it! So economically, it could affect my ability to pay my taxes on my property. I am retired and a "senior citizen" with medical challenges, so getting a job to compensate would be difficult to do. I love the beauty and serenity that surrounds me, please don't destroy the railroad's pretensions! Thank you!

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Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

*We love our country
let's keep our land!*



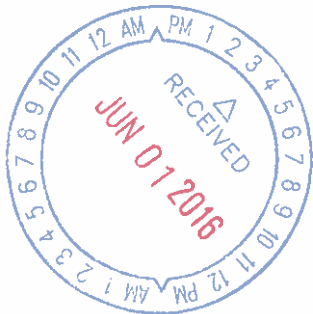
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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Road Hebron Indiana 46341

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Surface Transportation Board

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Dear Board

May 25th JUNE 15

The impact of the railroad on existing land use patterns would be utterly horrendous! Farmers till this land in such a way to reduce soil erosion in order to save the top soil. With railroad tracks going through their land it would completely alter the farmers' cultivation, besides blocking the natural flow of surface water! Because of the changes in their tilling, many farmers would rather leave the area than work around the railroad tracks in or around their fields. The entire farming industry would be negatively affected by the railroad.

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NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL

Jim Austgen
15000 County Line Road
Noblesville, Indiana 46034
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Dear Board

May 20th JUNE 15

In the town of Wheatfield, Indiana is an electric plant of N.E. P.S.C. In order for it to operate properly the Kankakee River must be at a specific level. The railroad tracks would be like a dam in our fields stopping the natural flow of surface water and underground water to the Kankakee River. With the reduction, it could cause the river to be lower than the requirement needed for the electric plant's needs. It could, therefore, affect the amount of electricity available for use. The railroad is more of a detriment than an asset. Please stop the project. Thank You!

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NAME

Jane Louise Gustgen

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Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

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Surface Transportation Board

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Dear Board,

May 2 8 PM JUNE 15

It is planting time for us farmers. The land is our manufacturing plant and the crops are our products. We plant acres of land going from one section to another. If the railroad comes near or through our land it will make it extremely difficult if not at all, to take care of our crops. For some farmers they would have to go to a crossing to do another section of their land. For others, the tracks will land lock access to their fields which is a loss of income. For one farmer the proposed tracks will divide his acreage in half. It would be difficult to manage the crops. Please deny the railroad. It has no economic value to us farmers.

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment on some other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

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Let us keep our land!

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
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Thank you!

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Dear Board

May 31st JUNE 15

Before the Industrial Revolution, ninety-seven per cent of the country was agricultural. It is now only three per cent! Most of those are individually owned farmers who love their land and take care of it with their blood, sweat and tears.

The proposed railroad would be detrimental to the farming industry in all the areas of concern by the board. It would be an environmental injustice to allow the railroad to disrupt/destroy another industry for the sake of greed and vanity! CREATE is already available, so there is no need for this. Please stop this petition!

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Jan Lee Austgen

15080 County Line Road

Elkhart, Indiana 46534

(219) 741-8521

jaustgen@yahoo.com

E-MAIL:

Thank you!
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Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

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Remember Those Who Lost Their
How Do I Submit Comments? Lives for Our Freedom /
Freedom of Our Land //

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Dear Board

May 30th JUNE 15

Please quit, serenity and God's creation surround us. It soothes the nerves. It heals the body and soul. The railroad would destroy all of the above. Mr. Patton does not care about the farmers life cultural. He just wants the land for his own greed and avarice! Mr. Patton said quote "I hear that over and over again, they (farmers) want this pastoral lifestyle, and that's great but the population is growing... The arguments are identical 'you're taking my ground. You're taking my farmland!'" He is! The railroad will only benefit him! Two rail companies have all ready decided using his track. My heart is broken. It is not negotiable! Please,

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Jon Lipe Austgen along the O & B Railroad
150 80 County Line Road
Newtown, Indiana 46341
(219) 741-8521
jcaustgen@yahoo.com

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Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
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Dear Board,

May 24th JUNE 15

My ancestors came from England in the 1700s. They fought in the Revolutionary War. They founded the town of Merrillville, Indiana. I am proud of my American heritage. We were farmers, ironworkers, teachers, etc. What the railroad would do to our farming industry would be detrimental to our business. The Monon train became defunct (they are trying to make the tracks into bicycle/walking routes). Mr. Patton's plan goes through farmland and not build a highway! There are other tracks that are unused or abandoned in the area - use them! Let us keep our land green!

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Jan Lape-Custgen

15080 County Line Road

Hebron, Indiana 46341

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jcustgen@yahoo.com

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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Road Hebron Indiana 46341

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Dear Board, June 1st JUNE 15

We have prime farmland in Porter and Lake counties of which the railroad will destroy its yield and if an accident occurs it could contaminate our land and water. As stated previously, the presence of a railroad through our land is not beneficial to us at all. It creates more problems and more harmful events.

The balance of surface water, irrigation, and ground water help our crops grow and the railroad would alter the present natural flow and break our drainage tiles.

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Jan Loe Austgen

NAME

15800 County Line Road

ADDRESS

Delmar, Indiana 46341

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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PHONE

jaustgen@yahoo.com

E-MAIL

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

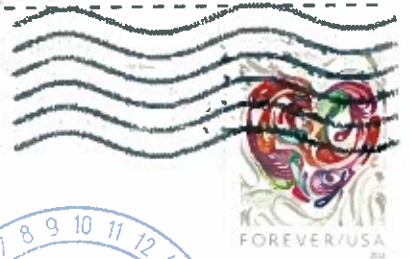
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Dear Board

June 2nd JUNE 15

The crops are planted now we rely on God to bless our land so we can have a good yield.

The railroad taking our land will reduce that yield if the petition is approved. Since Mr. Patton is aware we farmers oppose his plan, he will rely on "eminent domain" to fulfill his quest! In essence we would be unfairly treated in order to appease the railroad's construction which will be an environmental injustice. Since we are just farmers—not millionaires—we will fight for the right to keep our land in the courts which will be financial

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NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:

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Dave Navecky

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ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952

395 E Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Thank you

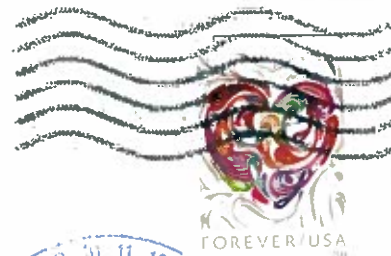
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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Rd
Hebron, IN 46341

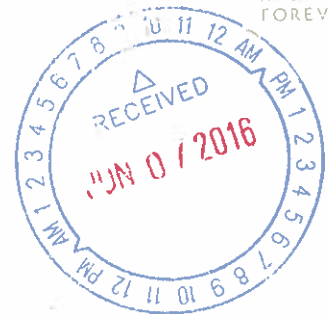
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Dear Board,

(JUN 4) JUNE 15

Shore Run Park is a county park only four miles from the proposed railroad tracks. It has nesting American Bald Eagles in the park. Its walking trails are used as well as its picnic tables for patrons. It is quiet, beautiful, peaceful, and serene. It is a place safe for deer, eagles, raccoons, and other God's creatures.

If the railroad is granted all that is above will be changed for the worse! The blaring whistle, the noise, the air pollution, and massive cars will frighten the wild life and take away the serenity!

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Jan Lape Rustgen

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Nelson, Indiana 46341

219 741-8521

jcaustgen@yahoo.com

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Dave Navecky

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080 County Line Rd
bron, IN 46341

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Dear Board, June 7th JUNE 15

There is already an existing transportation network called CREEK which is established and utilized by the Class I railroads, therefore the O & B T railroad is not necessary! It's proposal is purely for the benefit of no. 1000. The railroad would be so detrimental to the farming industry it is beyond comprehension. If it is approved, I would have to wait for trains to pass in order to go to the town of Telleron - now, I turn and am there in a few minutes! Please deny the railroad and preserve our pastoral beauty!!

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NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL

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Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Rd
Hebron, IN 46341

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Dear Board,

June 11th JUNE 15

Thanks for listening and reading all our e-mails and letters these past couple of months. We have presented our concerns for opposing the railroad as it will affect all of the future issues in a negative way. Taking prime land to build railroad tracks is an insult to farmers! We work hard to preserve our livelihood. Our land is our "manufacturing plant" and a railroad will destroy it! (Mr. Patton could care less!) You have the power to disqual that destruction. Please deny the railroad's petition.

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Jim Lyle Austgen
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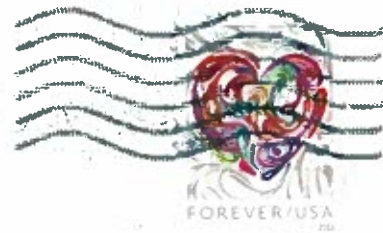
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- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link and then clicking on "Environmental Comments."

Please refer to Docket No. FD 35952 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is May 16, 2016.

Dear Board, June 13th JUNE 15
There is a private wildlife rescue about three miles from the railroad. It has an elk and a beldon bear that would be frightened by the train noise and whistles. Animals may have quiet to feel safe and secure. The railroad would destroy that serenity. Nearby, just down the road, is our Henry Run County Park with more wild animals and a pair of nesting bald Eagles. They too would be frightened by the railroad's presence. There is no economic advantage to us to have a railroad through or by our land. Please stop this plan!

NOTE: When an individual chooses to submit an Environmental Comment or some Other Submissions, his or her personal contact information is considered public information and is shared within and outside of STB without additional authorization.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE

E-MAIL

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Jane Lye-Custgen
15030 County Lane Road
Hibron Indiana 46341
(219) 741-8521
jcacustgen@yahoo.com

P.S. I enclosed a poem I wrote

Railroad vs. Farmer

A man has an idea of a railroad track around the cities and towns. It will be his own and it will carry hazardous material as its freight.

In order to be built, he needs the land from farmers. He doesn't understand — farmers love their land!

WHO CARES, THEY ARE JUST FARMERS

The beauty of the day, with the birds singing God's glory awakens the farmers to start their chores. There are cows to milk, animals to feed, land to till and plant, and children to care and feed.

WHO CARES, THEY ARE JUST FARMERS

The railroad running through their land would destroy their way of life. As the tracks would split their farm in half, break drainage, tile, and the animals would be frightened by the train's blaring whistle.

WHO CARES, THEY ARE JUST FARMERS

Railroad vs. Farmer

2-

If, God forbid, the train derailed, even just once, the hazardous material could contaminate the soil, the water, and the air. People and animals would be at risk.

WHO CARES, THEY ARE JUST FARMERS

There is hope in that the railroad could be denied and the farmers could keep their land and pastoral way of life.

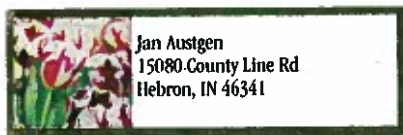
Like hope relies with the Surface Transportation Board.

Maybe they will care enough about the farmers.

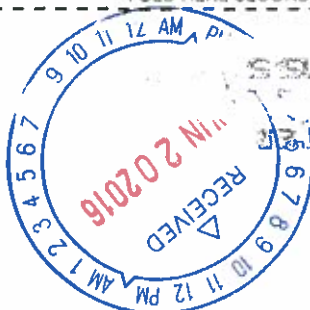
When they eat their meals hopefully they will thank God and the farmer (who raised the animals) and planted the food for them to enjoy.

Who cares about the farmers? God does and hopefully, the Board will understand and allow the farmers to keep their land!

Written by Jan Lape Austin June 10, 2016
(Free Verse)



Jan Austgen
15080 County Line Rd
Hebron, IN 46341



Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board

ATTN: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

20423-0001



FOLD HERE FIRST