

March 31, 2016

Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

ATTN: Dave Navecky

Dear Mr. Navecky,

This letter is in regard to the proposed railroad of the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Corporation in Boone County, Illinois.

The website for Great Lakes Basin Railroad states that they intend to avoid settled area and have minimum impact on the was area residents live today. They also will provide a one to two mile buffer zone between the new railroad and towns along the proposed route. The avoidance of major population centers would minimize potential of spills releases and derailments while also limiting air, noise, and vibration impacts on settled area. They would eliminate at grade railroad crossings at major highways. What at grade railroad crossings would they eliminate? This is a rural community that most likely would only get at grade crossings. I live less than one mile from the town of Capron, Illinois and would be cut off from fire protection and rescue squad services if the rail line was busy with long freight trains.

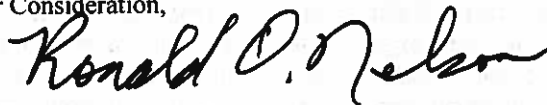
The proposed route on the maps I have seen put the rail line about ¼ mile from Capron, Illinois village limits, less than ½ mile from the Capron Grade School and playground. Should the children of a grade school be subjected to the hazards associated with the railroad line? It is one thing if a school chose to build near a railroad line, but it is a whole different story to build a new railroad near an existing school. The proposed rail line will be 400 feet from my house and 275 feet from the edge of my lawn. It also cuts thru my farm separating 50 acres from the rest of my farm. The line will be 300 feet from my neighbor's house across the road and at the edge of his yard. My question is if people in other areas get a 1 to 2 mile buffer because of spills, releases and derailments, why does that not apply to us? Also if there is a buffer because of air, noise, and vibration impacts, why are the rest of us supposed to be subjected to these hazards?

Are we expected to put up with all these problems they are trying to eliminate in other areas so they can make money from this line? The website say that the trains will be traveling at speeds from 49mph to 70mph and will be able to handle up to 110 trains per day.

The prospect of living 400 feet from railroad tracks having that speed and volume is a helpless feeling. This home and farm has been in my family since 1853 and will no longer be a quiet comfortable place to live and farm at.

The Great Lakes Basin Railroad seems to think they can come in and disrupt a community for their gain and profit. Would You want to live 400 feet from the railroad?

Thank You for your Consideration,



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