

EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP
ROSEMARIE MORROW
8305 E. 173RD AVENUE—HEBRON, INDIANA 46341
(219) 996-4572—E-MAIL eaglecreekwitch@yahoo.com

April 29, 2016

RE: Docket No. FD 35952

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.

AT A MEETING OF THE EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2016, A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC. WAS APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE TRUSTEE, ROSEMARIE MORROW AND BOARD MEMBERS JOHN JURIS, WILBERT FITCH, AND BRUCE MCNEILL.

THE RESOLUTION CITES NUMEROUS REASONS WHY THE RAIL LINE WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE RESIDENTS OF EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

1. FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES WOULD FACE SERIOUS DELAYS AND OBSTACLES RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES DUE TO THE VOLUME OF TRAINS (UP TO 110 PER DAY) USING THE PROPOSED TRACKS AND POSSIBLE ROAD CLOSURES. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE WHEN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES DELAYING THESE SERVICES WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.
2. TRI CREEK SCHOOL CORPORATION WOULD BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED WITH THE HIGH SPEED FREIGHT TRAINS TRAVELING AT SPEEDS UP TO SEVENTY (70) MILES PER HOUR. FREIGHT INCLUDING MORE TWO THOUSAND TYPES OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE PROPOSED TO RUN ALONG THE BORDER OF THE LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL AS WELL AS WITHIN ONE HALF MILE OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
3. THE VOLUME OF TRAINS THAT WILL BE RUNNING EACH DAY WILL GREATLY INCREASE TRI CREEK STUDENTS TRAVEL TIME TO AND FROM SCHOOL. STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES ATTENDING THE SCHOOLS WILL SUFFER FROM THE DISTRACTION OF THE TRAIN NOISE. LOUD NOISES ARE HARMFUL TO STUDENTS SUFFERING FROM DISABILITIES.
4. FURTHER MORE, THE LURE OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS CAN RESULT IN ACCIDENTS OR DEATH TO STUDENTS WHO WALK ON THE TRACKS.
5. THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY IN EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED HURTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES. NO ONE WANTS HIGHER TAXES AND REDUCED ACCESS TO SERVICES.
6. THE DANGERS FROM POTENTIAL ACCIDENTS, SPILLS AND DERAILMENTS LOOMS LARGE AND WE OPPOSE PUTTING THE RESIDENTS OF EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP IN A PERILOUS POSITION.
7. LAND VALUES IN THE AREA WILL DROP DRAMATICALLY. FARMERS WILL LOSE THEIR LIVELIHOOD OR HAVE IT SEVERELY DIMINISHED IF THE RAIL LINE GOES FORWARD. MANY FARMS WILL BE DIVIDED BY THE TRACKS MAKING PORTIONS OF THE FARM LAND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACCESS. THE DANGER OF CROSSING THE RAILROAD TRACKS WITH LARGE FARM EQUIPMENT CREATES A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD. THE TRAINS PLAN TO TRAVEL AT SPEEDS UP TO 70 MILES PER HOUR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR TRAINS TO PASS EVERY THIRTEEN (13) MINUTES. SLOW MOVING FARM EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE GET OVER THE TRACKS BEFORE BEING STRUCK BY A FAST MOVING TRAIN.

8. MUCH OF THE INCOME DERIVED IN EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP COMES FROM AGRICULTURE. LAND TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION IS LAND LOST FOREVER. THE ECONOMY OF THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE HINDERED BY THE LOSS OF FARM INCOME.

9. WE SEE NO VIABLE PURPOSE AND NO NEED FOR THIS RAIL LINE TO GO FORWARD WITHOUT A COMMITMENT FROM THE MAJOR RAIL CARRIERS TO LEASE THIS RAIL LINE FROM GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.

10. DRAINAGE IS A HUGE ISSUE. SOUTH LAKE COUNTY AND SOUTHERN EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP ARE IN A FLOOD PLAIN. OUR WATER SHED IN EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP FLOWS SOUTH TO THE KANKAKEE RIVER. DECADES OF WORK AND MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS HAVE BEEN INVESTED INTO THIS AREA TO PROVIDE PROPER DRAINAGE. BUILDING THIS RAIL LINE WOULD CREATE A DAM SEPARATING THE NORTH SIDE OF THE AREA FROM THE SOUTH SIDE. FARMERS HAVE INVESTED IN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS THAT WOULD BE DISRUPTED AND FIELD DRAINAGE TILES THAT WOULD BE BROKEN CAUSING FLOODING OF FIELDS THAT WILL DESTROY THEIR CROPS.

11. WELLS ARE THE ONLY SOURCE OF WATER FOR OUR TOWNSHIP. THE RESIDENTS DEPEND ON THESE WELLS FOR HOUSEHOLDS, IRRIGATION AND LIVESTOCK. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE. RUN OFF OF MILES OF CREOSOTED RAIL TIES WILL IMPACT THESE WELLS AND THE SURROUNDING LAND.

12. TRAIN DERAILMENTS ALONG THIS LINE COULD EASILY CONTAMINATE GROUND WATER AND IN TURN THE WATER IN THE KANKAKEE RIVER. WATER IS OUR GREATEST RESOURCE, WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT IT. THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNS IN ILLINOIS ALONG THE KANKAKEE RIVER GET THEIR WATER OUT OF THE RIVER. THAT WOULD CREATE A DISATEROUS SITUATION.

IN SUMMARY THE PROPOSED RAILROAD WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE AFFECT ON THE RESIDENTS OF EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP AND ADJOINING AREAS. THEREFORE THIS BOARD HAS APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS RESOLUTION AND WILL PRESENT IT TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB). THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEE OF EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP.

SIGNATURES



ROSEMARIE MORROW

EAGLE CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, LAKE COUNTY, IN



JOHN JURs, BOARD MEMBER



WILBERT FITCH, BOARD MEMBER



BRUCE MCNEILL, BOARD MEMBER