

Attn: Dave Navecky

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My name is Eric VerHagen I live at 11749 Russeleville Rd
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This is concerning the new great lakes basin railroad that will soon be built near my home. I'm a 3rd generation hobby farmer in which we raise chickens and have a nice orchard. We will soon have the train less than 2 miles from my home, which is upsetting because I just bought my home 5 miles away from my parents to stay in the area way before I knew about the train. This train will bring unwanted pollution to this area. Hauling upwards of 100 trains daily will greatly impact the wildlife in this area as it will be very close to the kishwaukee river where people fish, cranes and wild birds nest and where natural prairies still exist (hence living by Garden Prairie known for the prairies). We recently had the pipeline tear throughout this area and farmers fields now 5 miles west we get a train? The surrounding fields are also owned by our neighbors who are 3rd and 4th generation farmers, will you be making every East West road in Boone County Ag assessable? This will greatly affect the commute for most people that take Marengo and Woodstock roads commuting to Rockford and Mchenry County for work. I chose to live in the county to avoid the traffic of living in town as well as stay away from the noise. These farmers around me rely solely on their crops and profit from the land. Has anyone looked into this area known as tornado alley? We have had devastating tornados in this area annually. Farms have been wiped out, children killed on school busses; the historic Edwards apple orchard was taken out only a few years ago. My concern is in the event of a train derailment or damage during weather where are the hazmat people in this area? Who will come to a small town to clean up the mess? Just because we area a densely populated area does not mean that we are not going to show our support nor fight for what is right and wrong, we were able to keep chemtool from coming to this area several years ago and damaging this area, now the train? People are already talking of selling and moving elsewhere due to this issue, what kind of growth will that bring to Boone County.

An awfully upset farmer from Boone County,
Eric VerHagen

