

June 12, 2016

EI-24539

Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: David Navecky
395 E St. SW
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

Dear Sir:

I am writing in regards to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Docket Number FD-35952. I am opposed to this proposed railroad.

My family farm is in the proposed railroad yard footprint being considered east of Manteno, Illinois. Our farm has been in our family for over 100 years. I even have a copy of the original deed from 1818 when the Illinois first recognized the property as well as the deed when it came into our family in 1852.

I have no idea on what sort of commerce would be necessary to run a rail line from LaPorte, IN to Milton, WI as neither seem to be a big commercial port. However this line would be devastating to the many family farm in the area. This is some of the most productive farm land in Illinois. My wife always remarked that the soil looks like potting soil, it is so rich and dark.

This proposed rail line will also impact my uncle's farm property in Grant Park, IL. Both my uncle and my father are deceased but the farms still remain in our family.

Commerce is necessary and while it might provide for some construction jobs initially, the impact in terms of loss of farm land and the uprooting of many long-standing families, far outweighs any benefit.

I urge you to deny this proposed railroad line.

Regards,



Ronald Hagenow
428 Mockingbird Lane
Waterloo, IL 62298

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