

April 8, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001
Docket NO FD 35952

To Members of the Surface Transportation Board:

I am writing as a concerned community member, landowner, teacher, mother, and generational farming family member. The proposed railroad construction impacting parts of Ogle County and surrounding counties and communities is a severe threat to the safety of community members directly impacted by the proposed construction, as well as those traveling in and around the impacted communities. Please allow me to outline my concern regarding the proposal of railroad construction and potential railroad traffic in our area.

What type of PERMANENT effect will this project have on our historical farming families? My grandfather is the founder of our generational farm. He worked tirelessly to accumulate the land that is now managed by my father and uncle. I have a first-hand account to the hours and work that my father has invested in keeping the family farm alive and well. Times have not always been prosperous and many sacrifices have been made to keep the family farm in the family. It may be a small, hobby farm, but it is the ONE thing we have that represents our family history. My father and uncle have farmed with great pride, knowing they are not only farming to keep the family farm alive and well for their children but also to keep our grandfather's hard work alive and well. A railroad going right through the middle of family history is more than disappointing, it is devastating and heartbreaking to put it in simple terms.

I ask you to consider all stakeholders involved when making such drastic, permanent decisions. Our future generations are counting on you to vote NO!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Alderks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Alderks

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Monroe Center, IL 61052