

May 20, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Docket Number 35952 – Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. – Rail Road

Dear Mr. Navecky,

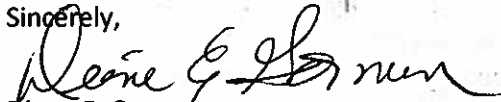
Thank you for receiving letters regarding the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. proposed rail line in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin along with the proposed 15,000 acre rail yard in Sumner Township, Illinois.

I have lived near the proposed rail line and rail yard my entire life and for the past 22 years I have resided in Sumner Township, IL near Grant Park, IL. We are a farm family and currently have 4 family farms which have been passed down through 4 generations that will be affected by this proposed rail line and rail yard. The different farms will either be wiped out or cut in half. For the land that remains, it will become useless. The proposed rail line and rail yard will destroy drainage tiling and field tiles leaving nothing but wetlands. This will affect not only our family land, but ALL land in the area as the broken field tiles will not be able to handle the runoff water. The proposed rail line and rail yard will also create dead end roads leaving the farmers unable to get to any remaining fields and also block residents and adding to the response time for emergency vehicles.

Grant Park, IL is a small but wonderful community with an award winning school district based on academic achievement. In 2015, the school was named a 'Best High School' by US News and World Report. The school was also recognized by the state of Illinois for its excellent academic success. Lastly, in recent years, the Grant Park School District has posted the highest overall ACT scores in the entire area. If this proposed 15,000 acre rail yard goes through, it will wipe out Sumner Township and decimate the school district. Grant Park will no longer have an awarding winning school district to brag about – for that matter, the town will no longer exist.

All of this can be prevented by updating and improving the current rail lines and using the resources already in place to reduce rail congestion (CREATE). There is no need for Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. to build this rail line.

Sincerely,



Diane E. Gorman

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