

May 13, 2017

243114

Katherine Zawacki
14550 W. 169th Ave
Cedar Lake IN 46303

To whom it may concern;

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 15, 2017
Part of
Public Record

RE: DOCKET # FD 35952
SUBJECT: Great Lakes Basin Transportation

My name is Katherine Zawacki, and my family and I live at 14550 W. 169th Ave, Cedar Lake, IN 46303. I am writing you this letter to request that you deny the motion for order of protection requested by the Great Lakes Basin Transportation. I want to give a quick background of my family first before I continue. I work for NISEC (Northwest Special Education Corporation) with special needs children. My son, Robert is also a "special needs" child. He is diagnosed with the following:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Abnormal Auditory Processing Disorder
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Anxiety Disorder

I am including this information because I want to show what an extremely negative impact it would be for my family. First, we struggled to get our son on board with us moving from our previous home. His sense of "normalcy" (school, his 2 friends that took him 4 years to get, & just a new routine at a new house), would change. We made the choice of moving for a better school system, & to have a calm atmosphere. This was a difficult process when we did finally move to our new home. We purchased this house less than 3 years ago. It took us 10 months to fix, just to be able to move in. It has been about 2 years since we've been here & it's been the best decision we've made. Our son is doing wonderful.

With that being said, here are just a few points that I would like to share that I feel is detrimental to having the railroad come through our property.

Property

The railroad will be crossing through the front of our property. This will either block our driveway and would need to be relocated, or, depending on how much property is actually needed to be acquired for construction, it may be impossible to relocate our driveway to have access to our home.

Noise

If the railroad does pass, the noise will be almost unbearable with the amount of trains that are expected to run on these tracks. This would be difficult for any "unchallenged" person to handle, my son wouldn't be able to function with the distraction.

Wild Life

On our property, we have the pleasure of seeing several wild animals. There are geese, ducks, and herons that visit our pond, along with pheasants and deer. There has also been an eagle that visited our property looking for food in our stocked pond.

Travel Delays

Not knowing construction or route schedules, I anticipate there will be travel delays for school bus routes and for my own job. My class starts at 8 am. My son's bus picks him up for school before I have to leave. If the bus is constantly late for my son, or the trains are longer than a few minutes, I will be late for work on a regular basis. That will be unacceptable, and a possible/probable loss of my job.

I appreciate your time in considering my letter, and hope that the decision to not allow the railroad come through our towns, properties, and homes. Please deny the Motion for Order of Protection requested by Great Lakes Basin Transportation. It will be a great dis-service to allow this to pass.

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at any of the following.

Email - katrob2@att.net
Cell Phone - 219-313-2119
Home Phone - 219-690-0307

Sincerely,

