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FD 35952

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket # FD-35952
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Surface Transportation Board,

Please block the GLBT railroad from going thru Winnebago County in Illinois. My husband and I live in a home that is three miles from the tracks. We had planned to sell this house and move into town in our retirement years, and with this railroad hanging over our heads it is not possible to even think about selling this house. We worked all our lives for this and now our house is worth half of what we even paid for it in 1997 when we built it. We cannot afford to have this area become more depressed than what it already is. Home sales in the Rockford area had just started to rebound, and then the railroad issue raised its ugly head and we just cannot afford to sell our home. As we are nearing our senior years, we cannot be shut off from civilization either. There will be too many road closures for this railroad and what once took us twenty minutes to get into town, will now be a forty minute trip – one way. Stop this now, once and for all. We can't go on fighting this for thirty years, we don't have that long to live. We'd like to enjoy retirement. We have taken less than four vacations in forty years. We were counting on being able to do that in retirement. This railroad is stopping those plans.

Mark and Debbie Olmstead
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