

BONUS TOWNSHIP
BOONE COUNTY IL
9015 Marengo Road
Garden Prairie, IL 61038

EI-25099

Tel.: 815-544-2437 or 815-742-9314
Fax.: 815-547-9820

Darrel W. Davis, Supervisor
Sarah Osterberg, Town Clerk
Don Gustafson, Highway Commissioner
Kathi Hendrickson, Multi-Township Assessor

Trustees: Robert L Bahling
Dan Mickey
Gary Turner
Todd Walberg

May 12, 2016

Mr. David Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky:

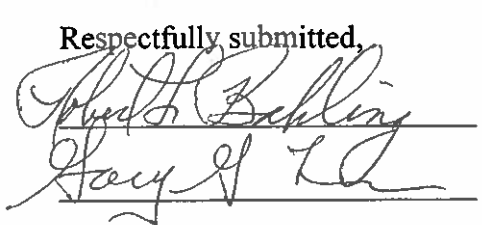
The supervisor and trustees of Bonus Township, Boone County Illinois request that the Great Lakes Basin Railroad proposal be examined very carefully with respect to the potential environmental impact of the proposed route, especially in light of the projected volume of train traffic on that route. We are very concerned that the potential adverse environmental effects may be so pervasive and damaging that they exceed the possible positive economic benefits of the project.

Bonus Township has a significant amount of relatively flat farmland in the area of the proposed route. Surface water drainage is a significant problem for many farmers in this and surrounding areas. Because the land in many places in our township is relatively flat, drainage of excess surface water from cropland is bad to poor when there are only limited impediments to natural drainage. Construction of the proposed railroad in the vicinity of the proposed route will likely significantly acerbate the problem. We are aware of existing significant drainage problems, and believe construction of the proposed railroad will just make matters worse. We request that this concern be very seriously addressed in the planning and execution of an environmental impact study.

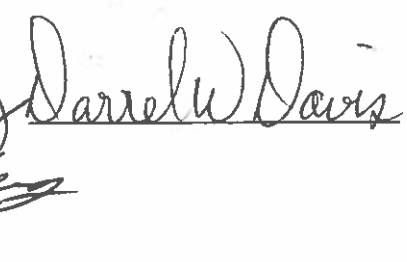
Due to the rural nature of Bonus Township, most of the residents are dependent on the existing roads for access to markets for their products and access to surrounding cities and towns for jobs, schools, retail establishments, and recreation. Any closing of roads is a major concern. Even though many of our roads are secondary roads and do not appear to be very significant, for the residents of the township who use those roads several times on a daily basis, closing those roads will significantly impact access to farm fields, access to markets for farm products and supplies, emergency vehicle response times, and other economic and social activities.

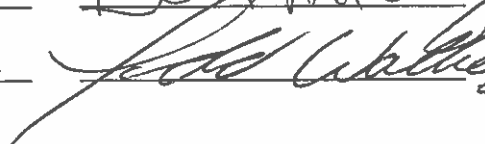
Because of the above and other potential adverse environmental impacts, the trustees and supervisor of Bonus Township unanimously express our concerns with the proposed project and request a very thorough and comprehensive impact study be completed and presented to the Surface Transportaion Board as that board considers the merits of the proposal.

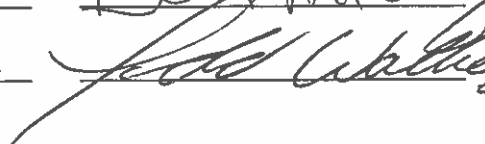
Respectfully submitted,


Robert L. Bahling

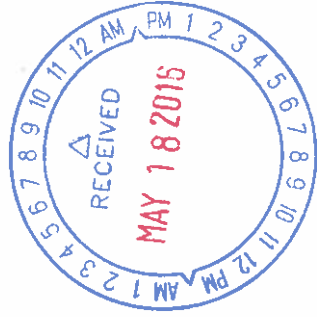

Don Mickey


Darrel W. Davis


Gary Turner


Todd Walberg

Bonus Township
Boone County
9015 Marengo Road
Garden Prairie, IL 61038



MR. DAVID NAVECKY
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



CAROL STEVEN IL 501
13 MAY 2015 PM 3 L

20423-0001