

EI-22917



Re: Docket No. FD35952 GLB Railroad
Angie Cornelius
to:
david.navecky
05/17/2016 05:19 PM
Hide Details
From: Angie Cornelius <lonosomeroadwest@gmail.com>
To: david.navecky@stb.dot.gov

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I am emailing you as a private citizen and resident of LaSalle County to urge you and the Surface Transportation Board to prevent the Great Lakes Basin railroad project.

I have great concerns for the environmental and economic impact of this project. The following are direct quotes from the Farmland Information Center. The FIC is a public/private partnership between American Farmland Trust and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Consider:

"With nearly 1 billion acres of land in farms, agriculture is America's dominant land use... converting farmland to development has detrimental long-term impacts on environmental quality."

"Water pollution from development is well documented. Development increases pollution of rivers and streams, as well as the risk of flooding."

"Development often produces more sediment and heavy metal contamination than farming does and increases pollutants - such as road salt, oil leaks... that lead to groundwater contamination. It also decreases recharge of aquifers, lowers drinking water quality and reduces biodiversity in streams."

"Development fragments and often destroys wildlife habitat, and fragmentation is considered a principal threat to biodiversity."

The area of LaSalle County where I live (Sheridan, IL area, and 2 miles from the proposed GLB route) is one of the areas whose natural features will be most affected. This will most likely destroy the biodiversity of the Little Indian Creek (Have you ever seen an actual bald eagle? I have, near Little Indian Creek.). It will also affect the overall safety of the water systems in this area (Do you have a well for your drinking water that will be affected by tainted aquifers? I do.)

Please consider these valid environmental concerns when analyzing comments during the EIS process.

Thank you,
Angie Cornelius
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