

Rock Against the Rail

My name is Jacob Ford and I just went to the Johnstown Town Center to vote for the primary election and it was made aware to my mother and I that a railroad, by the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc, is being planned to be built that would run straight through Rock Prairie farmland and destroy 24 acres for each mile of track constructed. This land is some of the best farmland in the state of Wisconsin and would be a waste of good earth just to bypass Chicago. This railway will run through about a ½ mile away from my backyard and it sickens me to imagine that. I plan to go to an informational meeting tomorrow at the Clinton High School to participate against this railway. I also plan to be involved in the Office of Environmental Analysis's public scoping meeting at Craig High School in Janesville, WI.

There are plenty of reasons we live out here in rural lands and one of them is to get away from the pollutions of the city. Please keep this railroad from worsening these lands. That's why you HAVE Chicago and large metropolitan areas so that you CAN have railroads and other industrial means clogging up space. The construction of this track would alter the rural nature of these townships forever. It would have a major impact on land values and not to mention transportation within these lands. It would not only be a single train; this company has requested a 200 foot easement that would allow for multiple tracks in the future. The Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc. does not have eminent domain so they have no right to do this.

I plan to contact Representative Amy Loudenbeck of District 31, Senator Stephen L. Nass of District 11 and Senator Tammy Baldwin about the defacing of this land and join others in the struggle to end this 'for profit' company's railway. I will not stand by and let this egregious act unfold.