

6 Ventnor Ct.
Hebron, IN 46341
May 19, 2016

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Attn. Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I have grave concerns regarding the route of the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line as it passes through Indiana.

The following are my concerns:

Quality of Life:

My horse is boarded at a facility where the proposed tracks will run at the exact north end of his (and many other horses) pasture. This boarding barn has about 30 horses. Some of these horses range in price from a few thousand to \$30,000 or \$40,000. Their safety and well-being is at stake. Fencing needs to be sufficient so these horses don't spook at the many trains and run through fencing. No matter the type of fencing used as it cannot be strong enough nor tall enough, horses will be injured, and either possibly killed in their flight or needed to be put down from their injuries. As of now, these pastures are quiet, restful, peaceful places for horses to graze and doze. Not so with 100 trains a day blasting within feet of their pastures. Watching these horses in pasture is a peaceful and idyllic. Not so with trains blasting through.

Wetland areas:

A wetland is near the horse boarding facility. Tearing up a wetland and then creating another four acres for every acre destroyed isn't feasible. Wetlands were created by the soil types and lay of the land. Sort of like saying we'll move the Indiana Dunes to a better place. It just can't be done. Many species of birds and wildlife congregate in and around this wetland. I've seen eagles, sand hill cranes, deer, coyote, ducks, only to mention a few. Trains will disrupt this wetland and nature preserve.

The boarding barn:

People looking to board their horse or horses at a barn with train tracks at the direct end of the pastures will look elsewhere. I would certainly pass on a facility next to

Page 2 of 2
Michalak
May 19, 2016

train tracks running many many trains per day. The barn would most likely close where my horse is kept, This barn is close enough to my house for me to comfortably ride my bike there. I don't want to move him to a different location: different food, pasture buddies, and routine. No other boarding facilities are as close. I don't want to drive miles farther.

Please take these above concerns into consideration and relocate the tracks away from Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana.

Regards,



Dorothy Michalak



Ms. Dorothy Michalak
6 Ventnor
Hebron, IN 46341

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