

EL- 22621

Rochelle Scoping Mtg
4-29-16

Ogle County Board District One Representatives Oppose the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project

We believe that the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project would have numerous ill affects on the citizens in our Ogle County Board District. This project would cut through several small family farms and potentially close township roads. Property values will decrease and hundreds of acres of farmland will be lost.

Ogle has some of the best soil for crop growing in the entire world. Because of this, Ogle County farms feed tens of thousands of people a year. With this proposed railroad Ogle County would lose approximately 500 acres of pristine farm land. 500 acres is the equivalent to \$753,641 per year to the Ogle County farmer.

The addition of the rail line in Eastern Ogle County will have a negative impact on the value of surrounding properties. The simple truth is that people would pay less for property next to a very busy rail line. When property becomes less desired, its assessed value is less. The tax burden will be go up for all other citizens in Ogle County.

With township roads closed and over 100 trains going through the roads that are still open emergency response will be delayed. The Ogle County Sheriff's Office and local fire departments will have to make the decision to either go around or wait for the train while an emergency situation deteriorates. School buses full of kids will have to take longer routes to get students to and from school.

With Respect,

Nic Bolin

Ricky E. Fritz

Zachary S. Oltmanns