

May 22, 2016

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

Re: Docket No. FD 35952 - Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.

Dear Mr. Navecky,

Enclosed is an e-mail that I sent to Mr. Frank Patton on May 7, 2016, in answer to an e-mail that he had sent me.

Mr. Patton responded to my e-mail on the same day and as you can see, he requested that I submit my letter to you.

Please accept the enclosed correspondence to be part of the public record concerning the Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.

Regards,


April Gerstung

From: Frank Patton frank.patton@greatlakesbasin.net
Subject: RE: Meeting in Morris
Date: May 7, 2016 at 10:45 AM
To: April Gerstung aprilgerstung@comcast.net
Cc: jim.wilson@greatlakesbasin.net



Your note is probably one of the most thoughtful, well written comments that we have received.

The key difference between you and our crew is the definition of the national purpose.

If I may ask a favor, please submit your letter, as written to me, to the Surface Transportation Board.

If you do, your letter will be part of the public record.

I am copying Jim Wilson, the President of the GLBR.

If you are willing to sit down with me and share a meal(at my expense) I would be delighted to learn more about some of the establishments you mention in your note.

Thank you.

Frank

-----Original Message-----

From: April Gerstung [mailto:aprilgerstung@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 7, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Frank Patton <frank.patton@greatlakesbasin.net>
Subject: Meeting in Morris

Good Morning Mr. Patton,

No, I did not attend the meeting on May 2 at the Morris Community High School and I suspect that that disappointed some people as I have been one that's been vocal on "We need some answers!".

Instead, I went for a burger and a beer in S. Wilmington.

They have an eatery in Gibson City and Kankakee that I would highly recommend if you're in their area.

So now I'm going to be honest with you as to why I didn't go.

It seems to me that your dream is causing untold chaos on a multitude of lives with the dream that they have already been living and I couldn't watch the faces and hear the voices of those who this is affecting again.

I believe that farmers are the backbone of America pure and simple and on almost every level.

To tell someone that a train is going to run through their property and if they don't sell, it will simply be taken is, I feel unjust.

To tell someone that has created a family business in a rural area that nurtures and heals in the peace and quiet and the fresh country air, that that may soon be gone, is I feel unfair.

To hold people "hostage" because questions cannot be answered is, I feel cruel.

Farmers and rural community living is a choice and we all sometimes have to pinch ourselves to make sure that we are living our dream, on our dream property that was purchased either by us or generations ago by our relatives.

We live on the land that takes our blood, sweat and tears and that we gladly give for the privilege of safeguarding it or helping it reach its full potential for the short time that we have been given that honor of guardianship.

You know what I told my mom? I said if this was us, I wouldn't even want to buy a gallon of paint to freshen up the back steps because, why bother spending the money on something that we're going to loose.

My mother is 93 and she and my father bought the property that has become a campground, has several farm fields, large wooded areas that surround a creek that runs the length of the property and also has five homes on it.

This was their dream. To move the family to a rural area, (from Lombard) and create a little piece of heaven with peace and quiet to share with others that yearned for the same.

They did it. My mother still manages the family business and she, like many others is frustrated at the direction that the world is going and man's inhumanity to others.

Although the GLB RR proposed route is not going through our property at this time, it is close and I've got to tell you, if my mom went to bed a month ago feeling as secure as one can in this day and age, and woke up the next day with a neighbor telling her that a train track or two was coming through her family business that is not only her livelihood, but her pride and joy, we would be as devastated at the known and unknown as those that are.

My father who died in 2001 was among many things, an avid railroad buff and you know, he'd travel anywhere to look at a locomotive or watch the cars go by, but I have to tell you, he would have drawn the line about seeing them go by his kitchen window daily and often...and I think you would also.

I understand progress and I understand right and wrong.

There's a tricky fine line between those three and rarely is it accomplished.

I've already said that the fear of the unknown and the known, has created emotions that most people didn't ever have to address, nor thought they would have to, and although having someone raise their voice at another is not always comfortable it is something that happens when others feel that they have lost control over their world.

Your proposed project has made people feel that they have lost control.

And Mr. Patton, at this point, they pretty much have.

Your dream is your dream, and I must tell you that we in the 11 counties and three state area that you have chosen to site this project, is not our dream or the legacy that we wish to leave our children, and we will do everything humanly possible to keep our dream the way it is.

Regards,

April

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MR. RALPH NACCOCI
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E. STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20423-0001

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