

I strongly request that you vote to STOP the Great Lakes Basin Railroad project- FD 35952. Rerouting this railroad project will only move the problems that it creates into the backyards of different people.

I live in Winnebago, Illinois and our town/community along with ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN THE PATH OF THIS RAILROAD, will be **negatively impacted** by the Great Lakes Basin Railroad which is planning to divide our lands and isolate us from goods and services in nearby cities and towns. I have many concerns about this plan.

-The Great Lakes Basin Railroad is currently routed to run a mile away from a shed in Winnebago, Illinois which is filled with old, unstable dynamite (as reported in the Gazette). The shed is at the intersection of McNair and Westfield Roads. Old dynamite is known to be unstable and the rumbling of the trains will likely cause the dynamite to explode.

-The GLB Railroad will DESTROY family life and the sanctity of homes for countless individuals living in its path. And all for **PRIVATE profit**. I would wager that the railroad developers would not care to live near this railroad that they are planning.

-The GLB Railroad will DECREASE property values in the area surrounding the tracks; this **decreases the tax base in each county affected by the tracks**. No one will want to buy land or houses near this railroad. In addition, the railroad will NOT be adding jobs along its path, it will just be going through areas on a daily basis, creating noise and causing potential problems with the derailment of toxic/dangerous substances such as oil. (The Midwest, our area here in Winnebago County included, already has an oil pipeline running under our farming fields.)

-The GLB Railroad will DESTROY farmland in the most fertile part of the entire United States. We can't allow this to happen! Our farmers feed the United States and the world!

-The GLB Railroad will DESTROY wildlife habitat in Illinois/Indiana/Wisconsin as the corn fields and bean fields are not just filled with plant life. The deer, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, and other animals of Illinois/Indiana/Wisconsin live in those fields year round! The crops provide a perfect habitat for these animals. Destroying this land could put these animals on the endangered species list.

-The GLB Railroad will negatively impact wildlife in our area, crossing land upon which animals depend for food and shelter. The route of the railroad crosses land where species of endangered birds migrate, as well as land preserved for wildlife.

-The GLB Railroad also crosses the Pecatonica Prairie Bike Trail, which will negatively impact recreation in our area.

-The GLB Railroad will block off the community of Winnebago, IL from the three major hospitals in Rockford, IL, endangering lives in cases of emergency.

-The GLB Railroad will close off more than one major roadway that the community of Winnebago uses to travel to Rockford for jobs, health care, and shopping.

-The GLB Railroad will isolate the community of Winnebago from both Rockford and Chicago, making travel to these two cities difficult as the train route will cut off all the major roads heading East/West.

-The GLB Railroad will DESTROY the enjoyment of two apple orchards in our county (Edward's West and Curran's), as well as hinder the enjoyment of William's Tree Farm which is a short distance away from the route as well. People go to these places to enjoy the fresh air and the country. They do not want to see continual train traffic or hear the noise of this traffic.

I strongly urge you to support the citizens of the Midwest region by voting to KEEP THE GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD (FD 35952) OUT OF OUR LANDS. Please do your job and support the citizens of the Midwest and the quality of life in our country by voting to keep the railroad OUT. Thank you.

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