

6 Ventnor Ct.
Hebron, IN 46341
May 20, 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:

Bussing children:

Children bussed to and from school should not be crossing a myriad of tracks, nor should their busses be delayed waiting for trains to cross. Safety of our children is of utmost importance. If a bus accident occurs, and a train remains blocking the crossing, emergency responders will be forced to take a circuitous route, jeopardizing response time and lives.

Access by emergency personnel and vehicles:

If a train is blocking a crossing, emergency responders will have to travel miles out of their way to get to the scene. Survival of health issues such as heart attacks is time sensitive. Fires in rural areas depend on a number of volunteers, both to get to the station but also to get the vehicles to the fire. Trains blocking crossings, even for five minutes, radically jeopardizes quick response time.

Toxic spills:

Trains will carry toxic chemicals. Look at the derailment in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 30, 2016. Tank cars ruptured, releasing toxic chemicals which shut down the public transportation. Derailments in rural areas, such as in the middle of a large farm field, are not easily accessible due to the lack of roads running into each field. County roads may be impassible during winter or heavy rains. Contaminating farm land, soil, and water from a toxic spill would create a catastrophe for many years.

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Imminent domain and a one time payment for land:

I own farmland. I am the 7th generation to own this land. My great, great greats farmed this land before Indiana became a state in 1816. Paying me what is thought to be a fair price can never compensate me. A one-time payment for x number of acres is a one-shot deal. I no longer can farm that land and thus, will no longer get income from that land. My children will no longer own that land, and be the 8th generation. They will no longer receive income from that land. Their children. Even their great-grandchildren. The ownership and one-time payment don't provide over generations. If your grandmother's brooch was stolen, you could have a jeweler replicate it. It would appear the same, but it is not really the same and doesn't have the same value. Farmland is the same. I can't buy acres from someone else and have it be an Indiana Hoosier Homestead Farm. And as is said: "they aren't making any more dirt."

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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