

EI-22294



FD 35952 - Great Lakes Basin Railroad - Opposition

Hoepner, Charles

to:

david.navecky@stb.dot.gov

04/26/2016 11:26 AM

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From: "Hoepner, Charles" <Chuck.Hoepner@McKesson.com>

To: "david.navecky@stb.dot.gov" <david.navecky@stb.dot.gov>

Surface Transportation Board

Office of Environmental Analysis

395 E Street

Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: Dave Navecky – Docket # - FD_35952_0

April 26, 2016

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I would like to express my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation. LLC rail line project. Docket #35952. I **oppose the project** and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal. My concerns are:

- Dividing up family farms with artificial boundaries makes it very **difficult to farm** with the rail line to cross which would randomly divide farmland.
- **Giving up the right to family farmland** that has been in the same family for generations is a major concern I have for all families affected.
- **Drainage would be greatly altered** to build the rail lines which would cause concern for farming and environmental issues would be made more noticeable such as flooding.
- **Noise issues** – up to 110 trains a day – enough said here along with the constant vibrations at all times of day.
- **Importing of stone and building materials** to support the rail would forever change the topography of the area affected.
- Concern over the **potential for derail accidents** with environmental impacts.
- The **lack of interest by these investors in looking at the C.R.E.A.T.E program** – is this massive project really needed or is it just for profits for a few?
- **How will this affect automobile traffic and response to emergencies?**
- **Who would pay for the cleanup** of leaking railcars and their cargo should this occur?
- **Is this the best use** of some of the richest farmland in the country?
- **Is an easement just for profit** – e.g. utilities easement even allowed under the law?
- With an 8 Billion dollar plan – **what happens if the investors run short of money and decide to halt the project? What kind of remedies are in place?** Do the legacy railroad companies support this project? **What kind of experience with railroads do these investors have?**

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns. As the son of a Centennial Farm owner in Northern Illinois, I want to protect this Farm for the future for the benefit of all.

Respectfully,

Chuck Hoepner

921 Westview Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205

615-973-5639