

5-4-2016

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

I am very opposed to the proposed Great Basin Line Rail project. This would be very destructive to any of the areas that it was to pass through. This would be a permanent destruction of prime farmland for little or no use except for the profit of a few investors. The NEPA Act Sec. 101 states that we are to preserve important historic cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain whenever possible an environment which supports diversity, and variety of individual choice. The destruction of our environment for the profit of a few is unacceptable. The use of eminent domain is unjust and should not be allowed for private investors.

Who are the investors? The people that have farmed the land do not agree with Frank Patton that the land is undeveloped, it is developed for the highest and best use of all, growing food. The farmer that is farming the land is in a business and should be allowed to continue.

I question the need for the rail in the first place. Frank Patton claims that we can load our grain on the train to go to Chicago; I think that he should check his facts.

The fact that a delusional man can draw a line on a map and put so much distress on the people in his way is totally unjust. He is claiming that this is his dream to leave a legacy, what about the legacy of the families that have worked on leaving a legacy for over a hundred and fifty years? Frank Patton's claim that he is being fair to the landowners is ludicrous as well. The farmland that he buys will leave two pieces of land that will be worth substantially less than the parcel as a whole. Also, I am sure that the homeowners that have mortgages on their homes close to the route were relieved to hear that their homes would be worth more with a freight train in their front yard! Another example of how clueless this man is.

I hope that you can answer my question about who would be held responsible if there was a spill. If private investors, would they have the resources available to cover all the environmental costs? Can the private investors transfer that liability to the federal government? If so, that issue is wrong as well and needs to be addressed.

I want to express that I think that is a bad idea all the way around and needs total denial to stop the plan. I hope that you will see it that way as well.


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