



**PORTER COUNTY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD  
Resolution No. 16-01**

**Resolution concerning Great Lakes Basin, LLC and the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad and their proposed request to construct a railroad through southern and eastern unincorporated Porter County, Indiana.**

**Whereas**, the County has established a storm water management program under the provisions of IC 8.1.5-5; and,

**Whereas**, the benefits of flood control and surface water quality extend to all citizens, institutions and businesses in the County; and,

**Whereas**, the Porter County Storm Water Management Board has by law been created to manage the storm water runoff and water quality along with guiding the growth and development of the unincorporated area of Porter County, IN accordance with the Porter County Drainage Codes established to protect the citizens from the following:

- To promote the public health and safety of the citizens of Porter County.
- To promote the orderly, responsible, and beneficial development and growth of the areas within the unincorporated area.
- To protect the character and stability of unincorporated area against flooding and storm water pollution.
- To preserve and enhance the scenic beauty, aesthetics, and environmental integrity of the unincorporated area.

**Whereas**, the Storm Water Management Board believes that the establishment of a proposed railroad and utility corridor through Porter County, Indiana will severely impact the southern and eastern portions of Porter County adversely with flooding and storm water pollution.

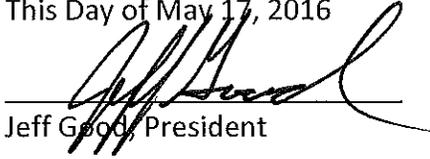
**Whereas**, the Storm Water Management Board believes that the creation of the Great Lakes Basin route as proposed before the Federal Surface Transportation Board will pose significant negative impacts upon the citizens of Porter County, Indiana, due to:

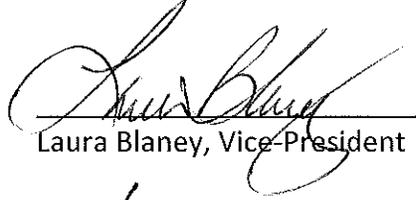
1. Proposed route is through the prime farmland of Porter County and some of the most productive soils in the Country. Said route will further damage the agricultural business with the proposed line going through Pinney-Purdue Research Farm. Said research farm that educates farmers on best practices and crop research for quality products. Said farm was positioned to be away from the urban area so as not to be affected by lights, noise, and vibration.
2. The agricultural drainage system is extensive and damage to this system that drains either towards the Lake Michigan or Kankakee River water shed could result in substantial loss of revenue due to flooded fields from broken drain tiles and interruption of the storm water flow. Numerous ditches traverse southern Porter County to drain unincorporated Porter County and cities such as Valparaiso. Maintenance of this drainage system is of vital importance.
3. The Storm Water Management Board is responsible for the timely response to emergency repairs and flooding along the drainage ways. Said railroad as with all railroads will not allow for a timely response to emergency flooding relief due to obstructions that may be created by the railroad crossing of a drainage way. Said timing is critical to the farm community to prevent permanent crop damage and loss of revenue due to the flooded fields.
4. The Storm Water Management Board has records of the county regulated drains but numerous drains have been placed in agricultural fields over the years that the land owners have not kept records. Said tiles will be broken during construction of the railroad and evidence of this will not happen till after the fact. The broken tile will create significant drainage problems resulting in crop loss and costly repairs or new construction of drainage system.
5. Negatively impacting the agricultural land with a non-compatible land use will disrupt farm operations that counties strive to protect and foster the agricultural environment. The Porter County Land Use and Thoroughfare Plan outlines goals and visions for the preservation of farm land and protection of their operations.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that effective May 17, 2016, by Porter County Storm Water Management Board that the proposed railroad by Great Lakes Basin, LLC will burden the citizens of Porter County, Indiana and said impacts cannot be mitigated or engineered.

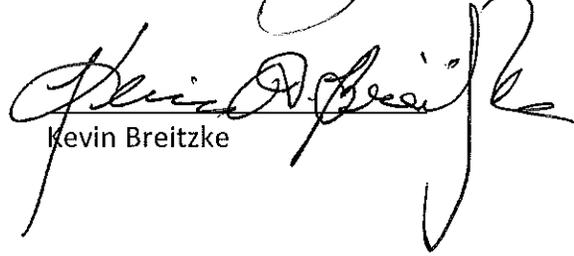
**Therefore and Be It Further Resolved**, for all reasons stated herein the Porter County Storm Water Management Board hereby opposes and recommends the denial of the Great Lakes Basin Railroad project.

This Day of May 17, 2016

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Good, President

  
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Laura Blaney, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Evans

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Breitzke

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Thompson, Jr., AICP  
Director