

ALICE F. DAHL TRUSTEE
CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE
151 N. FREMONT STREET -- LOWELL, INDIANA 46356
(219) 696-9713 --- Email: cedarcreektwp1@yahoo.com

April 22, 2016

RE: Docket No. FD 35952

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.

AT A MEETING OF THE CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD HELD ON FRIDAY APRIL 22, 2016, A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED HIGH SPEED RAIL LINE BY GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC. WAS APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE TRUSTEE, ALICE F. DAHL AND BOARD MEMBERS DANIEL BLANKENSHIP, PRESIDENT; JUDITH A. MATHIAS, SECRETARY AND RANDALL WIETBROCK, MEMBER.

THE RESOLUTION CITES NUMEROUS REASONS WHY THE RAIL LINE WOULD NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE RESIDENTS OF CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

1. FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICES WOULD FACE SERIOUS DELAYS AND OBSTACLES RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES DUE TO THE VOLUME OF TRAINS (UP TO 110 PER DAY) USING THE PROPOSED TRACKS AND POSSIBLE ROAD CLOSURES. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE WHEN RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES DELAYING THESE SERVICES WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.
2. TRI CREEK SCHOOL CORPORATION WOULD BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED WITH THE HIGH SPEED FREIGHT TRAINS TRAVELING AT SPEEDS UP TO SEVENTY (70) MILES PER HOUR. FREIGHT INCLUDING MORE TWO THOUSAND TYPES OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ARE PROPOSED TO RUN ALONG THE BORDER OF THE LOWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL AS WELL AS WITHIN ONE HALF MILE OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
3. THE VOLUME OF TRAINS THAT WILL BE RUNNING EACH DAY WILL GREATLY INCREASE TRI CREEK STUDENTS TRAVEL TIME TO AND FROM SCHOOL. STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES ATTENDING THE SCHOOLS WILL SUFFER FROM THE DISTRACTION OF THE TRAIN NOISE. LOUD NOISES ARE HARMFUL TO STUDENTS SUFFERING FROM DISABILITIES.
4. FURTHER MORE, THE LURE OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS CAN RESULT IN ACCIDENTS OR DEATH TO STUDENTS WHO WALK ON THE TRACKS.
5. THE ASSESSED VALUATION OF PROPERTY IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP WILL BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED HURTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES. NO ONE WANTS HIGHER TAXES AND REDUCED ACCESS TO SERVICES.
6. THE DANGERS FROM POTENTIAL ACCIDENTS, SPILLS AND DERAILMENTS LOOMS LARGE AND WE OPPOSE PUTTING THE RESIDENTS OF CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP IN A PERILOUS POSITION.
7. LAND VALUES IN THE AREA WILL DROP DRAMATICALLY. FARMERS WILL LOSE THEIR LIVELIHOOD OR HAVE IT SEVERELY DIMINISHED IF THE RAIL LINE GOES FORWARD. MANY FARMS WILL BE DIVIDED BY THE TRACKS MAKING PORTIONS OF THE FARM LAND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ACCESS. THE DANGER OF CROSSING THE RAILROAD TRACKS WITH LARGE FARM EQUIPMENT CREATES A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD. THE TRAINS PLAN TO TRAVEL AT SPEEDS UP TO 70 MILES PER HOUR WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR TRAINS TO PASS EVERY THIRTEEN (13) MINUTES. SLOW MOVING FARM EQUIPMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE GET OVER THE TRACKS BEFORE BEING STRUCK BY A FAST MOVING TRAIN.

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8. MUCH OF THE INCOME DERIVED IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP COMES FROM AGRICULTURE. LAND TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION IS LAND LOST FOREVER. THE ECONOMY OF THE TOWNSHIP WILL BE HINDERED BY THE LOSS OF FARM INCOME.

9. WE SEE NO VIABLE PURPOSE AND NO NEED FOR THIS RAIL LINE TO GO FORWARD WITHOUT A COMMITMENT FROM THE MAJOR RAIL CARRIERS TO LEASE THIS RAIL LINE FROM GREAT LAKES BASIN TRANSPORTATION, INC.

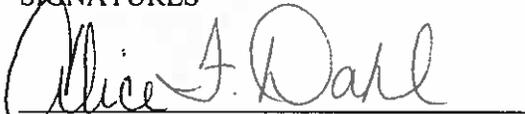
10. DRAINAGE IS A HUGE ISSUE. SOUTH LAKE COUNTY AND SOUTHERN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP ARE IN A FLOOD PLAIN. OUR WATER SHED IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP FLOWS SOUTH TO THE KANKAKEE RIVER. DECADES OF WORK AND MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS HAVE BEEN INVESTED INTO THIS AREA TO PROVIDE PROPER DRAINAGE. BUILDING THIS RAIL LINE WOULD CREATE A DAM SEPARATING THE NORTH SIDE OF THE AREA FROM THE SOUTH SIDE. FARMERS HAVE INVESTED IN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS THAT WOULD BE DISRUPTED AND FIELD DRAINAGE TILES THAT WOULD BE BROKEN CAUSING FLOODING OF FIELDS THAT WILL DESTROY THEIR CROPS.

11. THE TOWN OF LOWELL IS LOCATED IN CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP. WATER FOR THE RESIDENTS IN THE TOWN LIMITS IS SUPPLIED BY WELLS SOUTH OF THE TOWN. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE. THE PROPOSED RAIL LINE DISECTS THE PROPERTY WHERE THE TOWN WELLS ARE LOCATED. A DERAILMENT IN THIS AREA WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE DRINKING WATER FOR THE TOWN RESIDENTS.

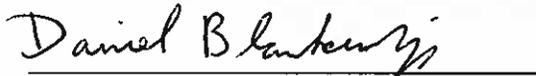
12. TRAIN DERAILMENTS ALONG THIS LINE COULD EASILY CONTAMINATE GROUND WATER AND IN TURN THE WATER IN THE KANKAKEE RIVER. WATER IS OUR GREATEST RESOURCE, WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT IT. THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNS IN ILLINOIS ALONG THE KANKAKEE RIVER GET THEIR WATER OUT OF THE RIVER. THAT WOULD CREATE A DISATEROUS SITUATION.

IN SUMMARY THE PROPOSED RAILROAD WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE AFFECT ON THE RESIDENTS OF CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP AND ADJOINING AREAS. THEREFORE THIS BOARD HAS APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS RESOLUTION AND WILL PRESENT IT TO THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB). THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEE OF CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP.

SIGNATURES



ALICE F. DAHL
CEDAR CREEK TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, LAKE COUNTY, IN



DANIEL BLANKENSHIP, BOARD PRESIDENT



JUDITH A. MATHIAS, BOARD SECRETARY



RANDALL WIETBROCK, BOARD MEMBER

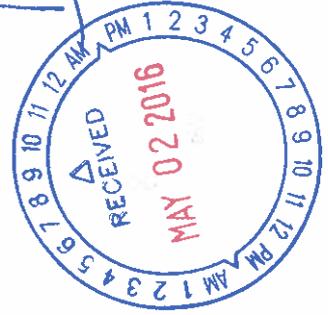
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