

3394 So. Paw Paw Rd.  
Paw Paw, IL 6135  
April 11, 2016

Environmental Protection Agency  
Regional Mgr., Dave Retzlaff  
4302 N. Main St.  
Rockford, IL

RECEIVED  
APR 14 2016  
ROCKFORD REGION  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY STATE OF ILLINOIS

Dear Sir:

As a long time citizen and resident of the Paw Paw community (Lee county, IL), I have serious concerns about the proposed Great Lakes Basin high speed rail project going from Milton, Wisconsin, to Michigan City, Indiana, that will be decided on by May 16, 2016. I urge you to not approve this project. (Docket # FD 3595)

Northern Illinois, including our area, has some of the best farmland in the nation as I am sure you know. What will happen to a lot of this natural resource when 200 feet of prime topsoil is destroyed for miles and miles for this railway? These environmental issues are also a concern: Noise to communities from 100 to 110 trains using it in a 24 hour period; accidental spills of hazardous materials contaminating the soil and polluting the air and water; disruption of the natural flow of water in field waterways and various streams which can lead to flooding; underground problems such as tile breakage; delays in time for emergency vehicles—some rural roads may be closed; with so many high speed trains using these tracks, there is greater risk of deaths at crossings and train derailment.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

*Karen W Ritchie (815-627-9461)*

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

APR 18 2016

RECEIVED