

ATTN: Dave Navecky – Docket No. FD35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

I would like to express my concerns over the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation LLC rail line project (Docket # 35952). I, like 100% of the local residents strongly oppose the project and ask the Surface Transportation Board to deny the proposal.

My concerns; which I believe will be echoed by all citizen letters are as follows:

1. Eminent Domain for a private enterprise – This is a very dangerous precedent to set with an outside interest (Frank Patton is not even from the impacted area) forcing generations of farmers off of their land for a project that benefits only The GLB LLC with no financial, economic, social, or environmental gains by those directly impacted. Keep in mind no one; I repeat no one but Frank Patton's interest wants this project to traverse our communities. Eminent Domain is intended for Governmental or public trusts investments, not for a Billionaire to potentially earn more by adversely impacting thousands of people. No Eminent Domain for Private Gain.
2. Agricultural – This project will consume 5-7% of the total farmland within Kankakee County. This farmland, so astutely named by Frank Paton, resides on the "Great Lakes Basin" and is therefore some of the most fertile soil in the world. Placing irrevocably-damaging railroad tracks and the proposed rail yard is simply not acceptable to the Agricultural footprint of this county, state, and country.
3. Environmental – This track would carve and divide critical farmland and State Parks in half. This will create severe drainage problems in all surrounding watersheds and low-level agricultural lands. I will add the unconscionable intrusion of a heavy freight line through the Kankakee River State Park; a generational staple of Kankakee county residents and wildlife.
4. Socioeconomic – Mr. Navecky, this is a peaceful rural community that generations have settled in for the peace and quiet of the landscape, an unassuming safe-haven for us to raise our children in. The last thing residents want is a filthy, screaming freight line carving through our communities. This will destroy home and land values forever in this area so let me share with you my personal experience:

Last year I built a new home in Coal City, IL (a town half-way between my work and my wife's). Little did I know the BNSF mainline cuts through Coal City with 80 trains per day. A town of under 3,000 people that takes 40 minutes to get across because the roads are always blocked by passing freight trains (sometimes three in one stop at the crossing), a town that had to build a second Fire and Emergency response station because it was no longer feasible to aid people in need because of the train traffic...an Emergency Response station constructed at the cost of the village and tax-payers.

Now let me tell you what life was like near this freight line Mr. Navecky; Imagine trying to put your infant to sleep with 110 decibel horns blasting hundreds of times per day; I'm sure you are aware of the FRA regulations that require train horns to be blasted multiple times at each crossing between 96 – 110 decibels. Do you know how that penetrates homes even over a mile away like mine was? Do you know what it is like to have your child repeatedly awakened by enduring series' of horns, or your pets pulling their fur out because of the stress it places on them, or the vibrations in the ground that make daily life nothing short of aggravating? You don't have to imagine Mr. Navecky because I can tell you first-hand that it is a miserable existence. So miserable that I willingly lost \$30,000 on my home to sell it low and get my family out of there. Now we have moved back to our home town of Bourbonnais in the Meadowbrook subdivision located just south of 5000 N. Imagine my happiness to now have a peaceful environment to raise my son. But now my quality of life and my sons' are being threatened so Frank Patton can try to compete with the established rail companies to add a few more billions to his personal net-worth. You may say the proposed route is far enough North of my home that I shouldn't worry but with Eminent Domain Mr. Patton reserves the right to move his line 30 miles up or down on his proposed route. So in theory Mr. Patton could cut his line right between 5,000 and 6,000 North if he felt like it and therefore destroying the lives and property value of all of us in Meadowbrook, Prairie Chase and Pin Oak subdivisions. Now I sit and wait for my fate and the fate of my family if we must once again endure the pain of the Rail strife. I also ask you to understand that even if Mr. Patton states he will use quiet zones to limit the horn impact, please consider that the FRA requirements for a quiet zone crossing are nearly impossible to gain and force townships to dump millions of dollars to even try to qualify; this is why Coal City must live with the hundreds of deafening horns each day.

Mr. Navecky, I can go on and on about the additional risks of hazardous waste and derailment risks that come with this freight line all being managed by a private owner whom has zero transportation and rail experience. I could point out the millions of dollars required to maintain a rail line that Mr. Patton seems to be forgetting about. I could point out that the established Rail Industry wants nothing to do with this project and that Union Pacific has already disavowed this project. I could point all this out but instead I ask for you to only consider me as a person, a father, and a husband...a citizen trying to save his family and community from the strife of 110 heavy freight trains per day.

Do the right thing and deny Eminent Domain for Billionaire Frank Patton...ask him if his "legacy" is more important than that of thousands of residents or if his grandchildren would want such a monstrosity near their homes.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Kevin Panizzi
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Panizzi', written in a cursive style.

Mr. Kevin Parizzi
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