

EI-22744



Block Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project Docket No. FD35952

Sandy Bruch

to:

david.navecky

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Hide Details

From: Sandy Bruch <sandy.bruch2013@gmail.com>

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4 Attachments



Division of farmland.jpg Failed standpipe.jpg The waste of land.jpg Water drainage.jpg

Mr. Navecky,

My husband and I farm as a way of making a living. My husband and his family have done so for three generations.

I have other friends and relatives that farm.

Illinois, especially Northern Illinois has some the finest soil in the state, and quite possibly the nation and needs to be protected. We cannot create new soil, new fields. All we have is what is.

The proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad would have detrimental effects on the farmland that it would go through.

Railroads and their easements for other uses forever alter the means to farm the land.

This proposed railroad will not only affect us, but will affect many of our friends and neighbors in all of the counties.

For example, please view the attached photos labeled "Division of Farmland" and "Waste of Land".

The photo "Division of Farmland" is a photo of a farm which is cut in half diagonally by a railroad.

Please note the overgrowth in the corner. Because of the railroad viable land is lost in the triangular 'corner'. Maneuvering farm equipment is difficult in these areas.

Also, in order to access both sections of this farm one must leave the field, get onto a very busy stretch of highway, cross the railroad, and then enter the other section of the field. It has been my experience that the average non-farm equipment driver has very little regard for the safety of themselves, the farmer, and those that they will potentially meet while trying to get around equipment. Any time farm equipment is on a road the potential for accidents is there.

With the photo "Waste of Land" please note the now defunct railroad electric lines. Again a waste of valuable farmland for an easement no longer used. Then there is the high tension power line towers in the background. Again, more lost ground as well as an obstacle to farm around.

Because of each of these points, efficiency is lost for the person farming the affected field. Farming is a tough profession, and every advantage is needed.

Next, if you would, please take a look at the attached photos labeled "Failed Standpipe" and "Water Drainage".

These photos show how the railroad has permanently damaged the drainage of this farm. When this photo was taken there had not been rain for quite some time and despite that, due to the poor placement of the culvert it made the tile standpipe ineffective. And just the fact that there is a raised railroad bed sets up the field for poorer drainage. Because of each of these factors, this farmland does not drain properly and there are wet spots that shouldn't be there and are either hard or impossible to farm. Land, that if the railroad had not been there would be well drained and prime land to farm.

As an American farmer, and as an Illinois farmer, please hear my voice.

I am asking you to block the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Project - Docket No. FD35952 and prevent more valuable farmland from being lost, and from more farmland being damaged.
Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Sandra Bruch
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