

May 04, 2015

Surface Transportation Board

The proposed GLB railroad is a poorly conceived plan. We strongly object to the railroad project for the following reasons:

The railroad, if implemented, would have devastating effects on our family, our land, our natural resources, our income, and the environment of the area. Beyond the impact for us personally, it would be as bad for many other families and all the region. Huge amounts of valuable farm land would be taken from the few remaining family farms of the states impacted. Farms feed the country, and family farms raise more healthy food than "factory farms." They should not be destroyed.

Our personal family farm would be split in two by the track. The line would cut between the farm buildings and the pasture land, leaving livestock no access to grazing or water. Presently our recently widowed mother lives there, dependent on the income from the farm. She is not well and the train noise would exacerbate her ill health. The noise would negatively impact our animals' health too. We are a military family that hopes to retire to our farm soon to raise commercial organic food in a sustainable manner. The railroad would make that absolutely impossible. It is only a matter of time before toxins spoil the soil and air and water around any railroad line.

Furthermore, the value of our multi-generation farm, our inheritance and that of our family, would be destroyed by the railroad line, so we could not even sell the property - if we wanted to, which we do not - for a decent price, so we could not afford even to buy another home if our farm was confiscated for this project. The railroad would wipe out everything we have worked for and looked forward to enjoying after a lifetime of serving our country's military needs.

Many established railroads already exist and could be put to use for transportation. To destroy homes and livelihoods by this plan is unconscionable. This railroad is a plan to use government power for private gain, and that is simply not right.

Sincerely,

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