

Dave Navecky  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

4/15/2016

RE: Docket No. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Navecky,

## **I would like to oppose the building of the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line in northwest Indiana.**

This would take property, homes, farm land and businesses away from people. Some of the farmland has been in families for 100 years. Not only will this take away their land and livelihood, how can they get jobs to support their families? Is the railroad going to pay to relocate families and provide job training to those farmers who lose their land?

This would ruin farmland – destroying drainage systems and making field access impossible or impractical in some cases. How can they build a railroad on flooded soil? Also, many farmers have gone to the expense of irrigation. Will the farmers be reimbursed for the expense to relocate or make it applicable to a smaller field?

If a train derailed, it would also destroy crops and possibly the soil for years – depending on what that train was carrying at the time. Is the railroad going to pay the farmer for that?

This would put an extra tax burden on our counties to maintain the ability to clean up such an incident. Is the railroad going to pay for that? The railroad should be charged the extra expense for that service.

Also, the expense for all parties involved. STB, Army Corps of Engineers, US Coast Guard, town hall meetings, etc. Will the railroad pay for this?

I have read that 110 trains per day will be on this track. That is more than 4 an hour – 24/7!! With that much train traffic I believe there will be derailments and accidents frequently.

Our county roads cannot take the trucks and equipment that would be brought in to build this rail road. It took LaPorte County over “15” years to upgrade our road to be safe. It was worse than a dirt road and not wide enough for 2 cars for many, many years. Now it is nice, and we would like to keep it this way. Will the rail road pay to repair our roads after it is built?

There will be no local jobs created from this. Maybe a few temporary, but I am sure there is a company who bring in their own people to do this kind of work.

It would not generate any new tax revenues to help pay for the loss of property values, business or homes. There is no business that would be created from the building of this railroad extension.

What will the railroad be charged for property taxes? I am sure it will be less that what is being charged now.

This would cause property values to decrease, and put more of a tax burden on each property owner.

I am also concerned with emergency vehicles being repeatedly stopped by this train. And the continued inconvenience it will cause to all people who use these roads daily. With 110 trains a day, this will cause delays continually. And the closure of some existing roads?????? Seriously?

I am also concerned with the added pollution from all the trains. Air and noise pollution. The trains will be blowing whistles 24 hours a day. 7 days a week.

This will also be harmful to our wildlife in the area. They will either leave, or be injured by the trains.

I am also concerned with the damage that will be caused to homes so close to the rail road tracks. Constant vibrations does create damage to homes. Is the rail road going to pay to repair their house?

With lower property values, people will not have the money they have projected when they sell their homes. Alot of people depend on this money for retirement. Is the railroad going to make up that difference? It will be very hard to sell a house right next to a railroad.

One reason many people moved to the country is to avoid the constant noise of larger cities. We do have railroad tracks around here, but the noise is not constant. It is an occasional comfort noise. There is no greater joy to me than to look at the never ending farm land surrounding me out here. Not seeing or hearing a train every 15 minutes.

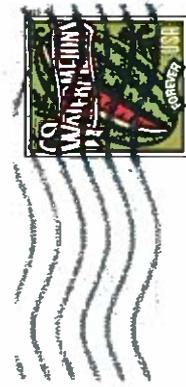
There is just too much to lose by building this railroad here.

Thank you,

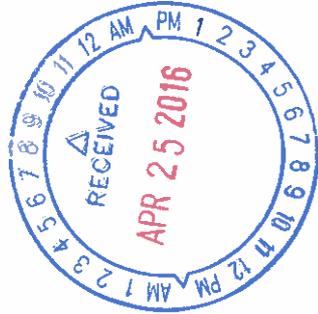
Barbara Mockler  
11211 West 1500 South  
Wanatah, IN 46390  
219-733-2348



Barb Mockler  
11211 W 1500 S  
Wanatah, IN 46390



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