

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LINDSAY PARKHURST
STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 79TH DISTRICT

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 8, 2017
Part of
Public Record

May 11, 2017

Mrs. Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Mrs. Lucille Marvin
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mrs. Begeman and Mrs. Marvin:

I am the elected representative for the 79th Illinois House District. This letter is my official opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railway project. This project cuts through significant portions of my legislative district in Illinois. It adversely affects the people I represent, the Kankakee River, and many natural habitats. Talking to my constituents and researching this proposed project, it is quite clear the residents of my district and neighboring districts are adamantly and strongly opposed. Landowners along the route and in the footprint express their fervent and keen opposition to their land being taken from them, oppose the land locking and interference with emergency response access, oppose the train traffic, noise, and traffic interference, and oppose the destruction and alteration of their rural community landscapes and farms. My district overwhelmingly opposes the railway, the trains, and the entire project.

I see no evidence of any benefits from this proposed railway to offset the negative impact from the loss of agricultural revenue, the harm to the Kankakee River and surrounding natural habitats, the destruction and costs to small rural communities, the havoc on the landscape, and the hardship on landowners in its path.

Further, the use of eminent domain in our state and our nation is to provide land for public use in appropriate instances. I am disturbed and outraged state and federal laws regarding eminent domain are attempting to be manipulated to take land for purely private use and private individual gain.

I ask you to fully reject this project on behalf of all of my constituents, not just those in the footprint. I strongly believe this railway project is detrimental to all who live in my district and is

definitely not in the best interests of my district. I understand this is a lengthy process, but ask the board to do everything in its power to come to a quick decision to deny this application so residents in my district can find relief from the distress caused by the uncertainty of the status of this project and move forward.

Thank you for your prompt time and attention to this matter. I look forward to working with the board to ensure the preservation of the best interests of the residents of my district.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Parkhurst". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State Representative Lindsay Parkhurst

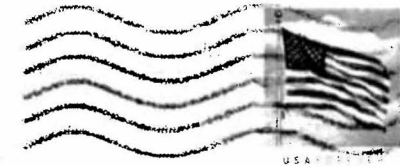
79th Illinois House District



LINDSAY PARKHURST
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE - 79TH DISTRICT
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Surface Transportation Board
 Attn: Ann D. Begeman
 395 E Street, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20423-0001



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