

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

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Comments on the Proposed Expansion of Railroad Passenger Service between Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Chicago, Illinois – Environmental Assessment

The increase in daily frequency of railroad passenger service between these two cities will have very minute impacts in terms of noise or air emissions. They utilize existing rail right of way which provides a much greater ability to carry people than the same land requirement in a highway expansion.

It is our measured opinion that a finding of no significant impact should be reached.

The amount of fuel combusted into the air to carry the hundreds of persons within the capacity of a train is much less than would be required to transport the same number of people in automobiles. The need to expand the land use with additional paved areas is reduced by the removal of cars from the road. These generate a positive environmental impact far beyond the extent of any small negative impacts.

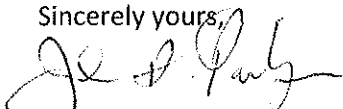
Moving people by train also reduces the need for additional parking facilities in congested downtown areas like Chicago. The efficiency in land use is increased as each passenger on the train does not bring a car through the congested roadways to a scarce parking space.

Another very positive impact is the reduction of highway congestion which causes additional air pollution as automobiles are stalled bumper to bumper idling their engines.

Rail passenger transportation is cheaper and more environmentally clean than any of the alternatives and our organization is fully in support of this expansion. We endorsed this in a general membership session at Wisconsin Dells on October 22, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (608) 386-3287.

Sincerely yours,



John D. Parkyn, President