

DeKalb IL 60115  
February 20, 2007

Diane O'Keefe, P.E.  
Deputy Director of Highways  
Regional Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
District 3  
700 East Norris Drive  
Ottawa Illinois 61350

Dear Ms. O'Keefe:

Good land is a precious gift bestowed upon us to steward not to plunder. Once this gift of rich soil is gone it is gone forever, it is our duty as inhabitants of this spot of earth to be its caretakers. When we handle this responsibility recklessly, greedily, or destructively we are condemning ourselves to spiritual and moral loneliness and others to want. This proposed highway will lay waste some of the most valuable land left on earth. We should handle any alteration with great reverence.

I ask that you also look closely at what this highway project will do to the only "A" rated streams designated as "Unique Aquatic Resources" by the Biological Stream Characterization ratings calculated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. No one in good conscience could cause the kind of havoc to nature and rural culture that this proposed highway will cause.

Even Rep. Hastert has purchased property in southwest Wisconsin (Now that he has made over a million dollars in profit from land deals made in advance of this coming development.) to escape the sprawl and damaged landscape this project will leave behind.

There are other alternatives. Just as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement points out the benefits of the two Prairie Parkway alternatives "appear to be quite small."

I ask that you please listen to the many residents of this area. Lifelong residents as well as new, residents who have experienced what it is like to be rooted deeply to a place, residents who know the lay of the land. Residents like Marvel Davis whose farm dates back to the 1860's. I ask that you do all that you can to choose another alternative and preserve the prairie heritage of this good earth by burying the Prairie Parkway Project instead of burying some the earth's richest topsoil beneath layers of concrete.

If we allow this to happen then we deserve the shame that our grandchildren or great-grandchildren will heap upon on us one day.

Dan Kenney

