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Great Lakes Basin

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Private Citizen

From reviewing the map of Illinois rail lines, the state is littered top to bottom with rail lines. Many of these lines already bypass the Chicagoland region. If the railroads wanted to avoid the Chicagoland region already can do this. All the Class One Railroads have tracks that can take them around Chicagoland, if they wanted to use them. The Great Lakes Basin project is completely unneeded as the railroads obviously want to go through Chicagoland. This is supported by the facts.

1. No existing railroad or railway has come out in support of the GLB plan.
2. Existing by-passes are in place, such as the old Elgin, Joliet and Eastern line, and the Keokuk Junction Railway line and the Toledo, Peoria and Eastern railway line.
3. The current flow of freight traffic is directed to the Chicagoland region by design, design that has been in place for decades. The early railroad planners had a vision and that vision still works.
4. The railroads could easily improve and expand their current tracks to accommodate the larger freight volumes; they chose not to do this. Since the railroads themselves have not proposed this line, and they have not sought to improve their existing lines that they can already by-pass Chicagoland by using this line from GLB is un-needed.

Why too do we need more lines in Chicagoland, a bypass takes trains away, GLB needs to build their line where it is needed, such as in Kansas City or Atlanta the fastest growing rail hubs in the nation. GLB has shown no public need and they have no rail road support, therefor they have failed to show public necessity.