



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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June 21, 2017

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
United States House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kinzinger:

Thank you for your letter regarding Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.—Rail Construction and Operation—In Rock County, Wisc., Winnebago, Ogle, Lee, LaSalle, Grundy, and Kankakee Counties, Ill., and Lake and Porter Counties, Ind., FD 35952. We appreciate knowing your concerns regarding this proposal and apologize for the delay in responding to you.

As you know, on May 1, 2017, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) filed an application seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate an approximately 261-mile rail line around the greater Chicago metropolitan area through several counties in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. On June 2, 2017, the Board found several deficiencies with GLBT's application and therefore ordered GLBT to submit additional information required under our regulations by June 22, 2017. The Board also suspended the deadlines for comments and granted GLBT's motion for protective order, but required GLBT to file a public version of its list of 10 principal stockholders and their holdings. If, after receiving the additional information, the Board deems the application complete, the agency will publish a notice in the Federal Register and establish a procedural schedule to determine whether GLBT's application to construct should be granted.

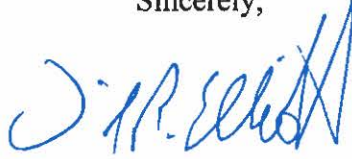
If the application is accepted, the Board's review of the GLBT proposal would consist of two processes. First, the Board would consider the transportation merits under 49 U.S.C. § 10901. Under this statute, the Board must approve a complete application to construct and operate a new railroad line unless it is inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity. As part of the Board's analysis on whether the GLBT proposal meets this standard, the Board would assess whether the GLBT proposal is in the public interest. Second, the Board would consider the environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental laws. To do so, the Board would conduct an environmental review process, which would include examination of certain impacts to the surrounding communities, including the impacts on adjacent farmlands. Information on the environmental review of the GLBT proposal can be found on the project website at <http://www.greatlakesbasinraileis.com/>. If the Board determines this application is complete, we assure you that all evidentiary submissions and comments on the merits phase and the environmental review will be carefully and thoroughly considered.

Again, thank you for sharing your views on GLBT's proposal. A copy of your letter has been placed in the docket for this proceeding. If you have further questions, please contact Ms. Lucille Marvin, the Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at (202) 245-0238.

Sincerely,



Ann Begeman
Acting Chairman



Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman



Deb Miller
Board Member