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Surface Transportation Board
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Washington DC 20423-0001
Docket No FD-35952

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RE: GLBT Application

I am strongly opposed to the proposed project and I hope that the STB will move forward swiftly with denying the application.

The burdon of proof falls on GLBT to prove that they have the financial ability to build and operate the proposed project. It concerns me greatly that GLBT refuses to disclose its investors even going so far as to attempt to hide behind an Order of Protection. Of even greater concern is that a year ago Frank Patton stated the cost would be 8 billion but now suddently that price tag includes a toll road. A project of this magnitude should have much greater public transparency to even be considered.

GLBT has also failed to prove a need for this project. None of the major railroads have committed to using the GLBT and two have even publicly stated they are not interested. CREATE is already improving congestion through Chicago and has much more support from the railraods and the public. If GLBT cannot prove need, which they have not, their proposal must be denied. The argument can be made that the railroad is not needed at all and was just a way for the GLBT to try to push a toll road, very similar to the Illiana which has been hotly contested and denied. At the very least, the bait and switch from railraod to toll road should cause the STB great concern. Once again, a project of this magnitude should have much great public transparency to even be considered.

There are also still major public and environmental safety questions the GLBT has failed to address in its application. Our local fire departments are not equipped to handle a derailment or hazardous spill. Who will fund the cost of getting them ready? Will the GLB investors be training our local first responders and supplying them with the necessary equipment or will the local communities each have to fund the these costs out of pocket? These questions that need to be answered before the application is considered.

The GLBT has put a great deal of people in finacial limbo as we delay financial decisions worrying about our property values if the project is allowed to move forward. I strongly urge the STB to deny this project without delay. If GLBT cannot answer who the investors are and who the customers will be then the GLBT application is incomplete and fails to address the proposed railroads viability.

Respectfully,

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