



May 22, 2017

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The Hon. Ann D. Begeman
The Hon. Daniel R. Elliott, III
The Hon. Deb Miller
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
3 95 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 30, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Dear Acting Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Elliott, and Member Miller:

In Regards to STB Docket 35952

Patriot Rail Company LLC (Patriot Rail) operates 12 shortline railroads and provides a wide array of rail services throughout the United States.

Shortline railroads provide rail service connecting our customers to the national freight rail network. Our customers depend on a well-functioning national freight rail network with the capacity and ability to handle the transportation needs of the nation on a year-round basis.

Patriot Rail is deeply interested in investments and enhancements in the national freight rail network that expand capacity, enhance reliability, and improve service for all freight rail customers. The Chicago freight rail complex has had a long history of being a rail bottleneck for railroads and rail customers, and although many recent investments and improvements have improved this situation, there is more that could and should be done.

Accordingly, Patriot Rail strongly encourages the STB to consider Great Lakes Basin Transportation's (GLBT) proposal and to expeditiously evaluate the various regulatory issues related to this project.

As several studies have shown, the freight rail needs of this nation continue to grow and the nation's freight rail capacity must expand to meet this demand - not just for our customers - but for the nation's entire economy. GLBT's proposal is the kind of improvement needed to improve service and reliability for today's freight rail customers as well as help meet the demands of the future

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if we can be of further assistance in your consideration of GLBT's application.

Sincerely,

John Fenton – CEO, Patriot Rail Company LLC