

FD 35952

Greg Vassmer  
2010 N Weldon Rd  
Winnebago, IL 61088  
[gcvassmer@gmail.com](mailto:gcvassmer@gmail.com)

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
May 15, 2017  
Part of  
Public Record

TO: Surface Transportation Board  
RE: Docket #: FD 35952  
Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT) Application  
SUBJECT: GLBT Motion for Protective Order

This is to ask you to **Deny** the GLBTs Motion for Protective Order request.

One definition of Order of Protection, as applied here is:

*“A motion for protective order refers to a party’s request that the court protect it from potentially abusive action by the other party.”*

In other words, the GLBT is asking you to protect them from all property owners being affected by the GLBTs application to build a railroad spanning 23,000 acres across three states. Shouldn’t it be the other way? That you help ensure that the affected people have a chance to be heard now that the GLBT has moved the route, affecting people that were unaffected previously, miles from where it started?

Simply put, the GLBT wants to use eminent domain to profit a small group of investors, whom they won’t identify, at the expense of a much larger group of people – and they are asking you to help protect them hearing those concerns.

We are in Winnebago County, IL. The farmland here is characterized as the best  
IN THE WORLD:

*“Some soil scientists say the state should be as well known for what’s behind those yields: rich, black dirt that is unmatched for fertility in the U.S. and equaled by only three other places in the world.*

*"God didn't make many places as good as this," said Robert McLeese, state soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Champaign.*

*Only patches of farmland in Argentina, the southern Ukraine and along the Yellow River in China match the fertile ground that covers much of the northern half of Illinois, particularly a high-yielding band through the state's midsection, state soil experts say." [Cedar Valley Business Monthly 07Mar2005]*

We, as the affected land owners strongly ask you, the STB, to require the GLBT be transparent in their application. It is wrong to hide the identity of their 24 stockholders and the percent each stockholder is contributing to the 37% capital required. This will result in NO ONE being responsible when the inevitable accidents, spills and damage are caused if this gets built.

To allow a private entity to hide behind a Protective Order but in the same vein to take land from working farmers, households and businesses by Eminent Domain; causing loss of livelihood for them and future generations; decreasing values of the remaining nearby homes, which is the single biggest investment for our retirement; remove some of the most fertile farmland in the U.S. from producing for Americans without any ability to fight back. This is wrong and not what our Democracy stands for.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a law that gives us the right to access information from the federal government. If you do not deny the GLBTs Motion for Protective Order request we will take the next step: <https://www.stb.gov/stb/foia.html> and contact Christopher Oehrle, FOIA/Privacy Act Officer, STB, directly.

**Deny** the GLBTs Motion for Protective Order request.

Greg & Carla Vassmer  
Winnebago IL  
15May2017