

ADAM KINZINGER
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1602

April 27, 2017

1221 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3635
FAX: (202) 225-3521

628 COLUMBUS ST., STE 507
OTTAWA, IL 61350
(815) 431-9271
FAX: (815) 431-9383

243005

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 2, 2017
Part of
Public Record

Docket No. FD 35952

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Acting Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott, III, Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

The Honorable Debra Miller, Commissioner
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Elliott, and Commissioner Miller:

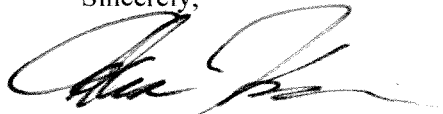
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad. After careful review, I believe the project is inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity and therefore should not be permitted to move forward.

Foremost, I am skeptical of the demand and need for the proposed project. Decades of investment by six Class I railroads have made Chicago a national rail hub and with it comes congestion. These rail companies are working in concert with U.S. Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago and other stakeholders to improve efficiency within the existing network. At least two of the six Class I railroads serving the region have made clear that the proposed rail line will not be used by their railroads. In my opinion, this calls into question the demand, need, and financial viability of the project.

Additionally, I think the proposed line will be detrimental to the prime farm land in northern Illinois. According to some estimates, the rail line would require tens of thousands of acres of farm land to be bought or seized. Nearly all of this farmland is considered prime, is some of the best quality soil in the country, and is often the most productive in the country. Furthermore, the project would sever tracts of farmland making it more difficult farm. These are just some of the costs of this project and I do not believe the project's benefits outweigh them.

Since this project was first proposed, I have had the opportunity to hear from hundreds of constituents who would be directly or indirectly impacted by this project. I respectfully request this proposed project be denied for being inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity.

Sincerely,



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress