

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

July 15, 2016

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

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

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

RE: Docket No. FD-35952

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

I write today on behalf of my constituents who will be significantly impacted should the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation's (GLBT) rail project be approved. Much of the proposed 278 mile route runs within Illinois' 16th Congressional District and, as you can imagine, many of my constituents in the project area are concerned about the project's potential impact to their lives, homes, and land.

As a project of this magnitude has not been completed in more than a century, I encourage the STB to conduct a full review and provide every opportunity for the public to be heard during each step of this process. My constituents are particularly concerned about the impact this project could have to land use, property rights, safety, transportation, noise, quality of life, and way of life. These issues and many more must be included in the scope of the EIS because they will answer whether the project is "inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity."

As previously mentioned, my constituents feel they are at a disadvantage in having their views heard. I appreciate the STB's willingness to hold additional public meetings and to extend the public comment period. Given the complexities and magnitude of this proposed project, I urge the STB to require GLBT to follow the formal application process under 49 U.S.C. § 10901 and not grant an exemption should one be requested. Doing so will ensure my constituents and all interested parties will have a chance to review the project, and any new information that may arise during each stage of the STB's work.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

cc: Dave Navecky, Project Manager, Office of Environmental Analysis