

No. 16-28

**TOWN OF BELOIT, ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD**

WHEREAS, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc., ("GLBT") has sought authority from the Surface Transportation Board of the United States Department of Transportation to construct and operate a rail line of approximately 260 miles in length, from Pinola, Indiana, through the State of Illinois to a point in the City of Milton in Rock County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the September, 2016 proposed rail line would pass through the Town of Beloit in Rock County, Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the construction and operation of the proposed rail line would have significant environmental impacts, such that the Office of Environmental Analysis ("OEA") has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") is required; and

WHEREAS, the draft Scope of Study proposes categories to be included in the EIS as follows: transportation systems, safety, land use, recreation, biological resources, water resources, including wetlands and other waters of the United States, navigation, geology and soils, air quality, noise, energy resources, socioeconomics, cultural and historic resources, aesthetics and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the purported "Purpose and Need" of the proposed rail line as reflected in the Draft Scope of Study is to create "more efficient options to route trains around" Chicago by allowing "freight traffic not destined for or originating in Chicago to bypass" Chicago, and to accommodate unspecified "existing and future growth"; and

WHEREAS, the only attempted quantification of the purported "Purpose and Need" for the proposed rail line is the suggestion that "transit times through the Chicago area, which currently can take up to thirty (30) hours to complete, would be reduced to under eight (8) hours depending on" certain unspecified variables; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rail line would pass through a great deal of fertile farm land, disrupting the safety and aesthetics of local residents and the economics of local agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the purported benefits of efficiency and time-savings attributed to the proposed rail line must properly be weighed against the enormous tangible and intangible costs that would be imposed on the residents and owners of property through which the rail line would run; and

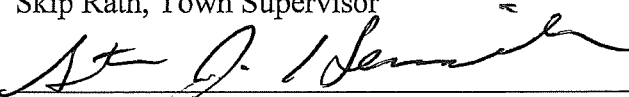
WHEREAS, the residents of the municipalities through which the proposed rail line would pass in the State of Wisconsin have expressed to the governing boards of those municipalities their strong concerns regarding the effects of the rail line;

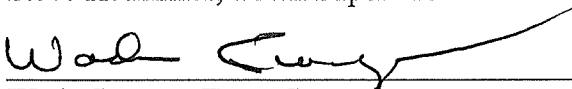
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
BELOIT THAT:

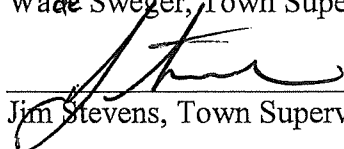
1. The Town Board believes that the purported gains in efficiency from the proposed rail line would be far outweighed by the negative environmental impact from that railroad.
2. The Town Board calls upon the Surface Transportation Board, as part of the EIS, to assure that the scope of the EIS include a socioeconomic study that weighs the relative impact of the proposed rail line upon social and economic resources in relation to the purported efficiency to be gained from such rail line.
3. The Town Board, on behalf of the residents of the Town and in the strongest possible terms, expresses its opposition to the construction of the proposed rail line and endorses the no action alternative.


Diane Greenlee, Town Chair


Skip Rath, Town Supervisor


Steve Heunfeller, Town Supervisor

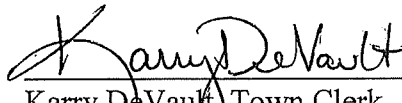

Wade Sweger, Town Supervisor


Jim Stevens, Town Supervisor

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Beloit on the 17 day of October, 2016, and that on the 27th day of October, 2016, a copy of the above Resolution was posted in three places in the Town as follows:

Town Hall
Police Station
Fire Dept



Karry DeVault, Town Clerk
Town of Beloit