



**Comments Submitted for STB Docket No. FD35952
July 15, 2016**

Submitter

Jason Culotta
Senior Director of Government Relations
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

501 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

Tel: (608) 258-3400

Email: jculotta@wmc.org

Comments

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce is the state's largest general business trade association, whose more than 3,500 members employ nearly one-quarter of the private sector employees in Wisconsin.

Our state has been struggling to provide rail access options to the shipper community for a number of years. Many shippers are interested in moving truck-competitive freight by rail but for a variety of reasons, including the congestion in and proximity to Chicago, that traffic remains on the highway system.

We are pleased to see a proposal providing a rail bypass to Chicago on the table. While there are legitimate questions about the location of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Transportation route and the proposed width of the corridor, we encourage the Surface Transportation Board to give the concept of a rail bypass of Chicago serious consideration.