



Boone County Government

1212 LOGAN AVENUE, SUITE 102
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June 15, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD35952
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Navecky:

Thank you for accepting comments on the alternative routes for the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line from Rock County, Wisconsin and Boone County, Illinois. Rock and Boone Counties suggest alternative routes to the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line that would serve our industrial and agricultural partners. These alternative routes would have a much better return on investment and complement our existing rail infrastructure. We see the Great Lakes Basin Rail Line's Wisconsin subdivision terminal at MP 243 as problematic given it is over 36 miles to the nearest Class I rail operator.

Rock and Boone Counties' suggested routes would include expansion of the CREATE program to the north to directly connect to Class I rail operators and an opportunity to access the port of Milwaukee. Other suggested routes would include using short connections on Class I rail companies' infrastructure in DeKalb, Kane northbound to McHenry, Kenosha, Racine and Waukesha Counties. There are also opportunities for enhanced local industrial service for Rock County via CPRS's sixth subdivision.

Rock and Boone Counties share more than a geographical border. We share a commitment to our comprehensive planning process. We also share a commitment to our agricultural soils and industrial and business partners. We are eager to further discuss these and other alternatives with the Surface Transportation Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Walberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bob Walberg, Chairman
Boone County Board



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