



May 17, 2017

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW.
Washington, DC, 20423-0001
Docket N. FD 35952

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

On May 1, 2017, the Great Lakes Basin Transportation (GLBT), Inc. submitted its application to construct and operate an approximately 261 mile rail line spanning multiple states. In July of 2016, I submitted my comments opposing the project as part of the environmental comment period. Late last year GLBT asked the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to suspend its review of the project. Now that GLBT has officially submitted an application for the project to proceed I feel compelled to once again reach out and state my opposition to the project.

Since last July the route running through Rock County, Wisconsin has significantly changed causing my opposition to the project to strengthen. Not only does the route still impact farm land and environmentally sensitive areas it now crosses an interstate highway and an ash waste storage area owned by a utility.

According to GLBT's May 1st filing the project has gone from \$8 billion to \$2.8 billion. I'm highly skeptical of the reduced number. In my time as a mayor and member of the Wisconsin State Legislature infrastructure projects such as this do not decrease in cost without a significant reduction in scope. I do not believe the 19 miles they shortened the project by equates to \$5.2 billion savings.

In addition, their filing does not disclose GLBT's financial backers. I strongly believe the public has the right to know who is financing this project. GLBT is seeking to cut through people's property and the communities and people potentially impacted this project have right to know who is paying for it.

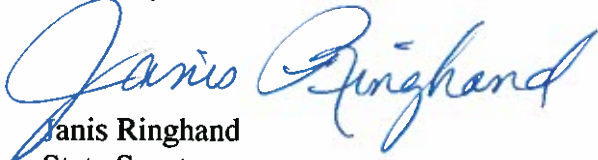
Furthermore, people have raised serious safety issues concerning high-speed trains running through their back yards that have not been addressed.

Today, I write not only to reiterate my opposition to the GLBT project but more importantly to impress upon the STB the opposition to the project from the residents of Rock County. I have received a petition signed by over 850 Rock County citizens opposed to the project and local

governments have passed resolutions opposing it. Stated quite simply people are not supportive of it. I urge the STB to conduct a prompt review of the proposal and reject it so people living near the GLBT rail line do not have this proposal hanging over the head.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janis Ringhand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janis" and last name "Ringhand" clearly legible.

Janis Ringhand
State Senator
15th Senate District

SENATOR JANIS RINGHAND

P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882

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