

Attn: Docket # FD 35952

Mr. Navecky

Surface Transportation Board

Docket No. FD 35952

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423-0001

June 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Naveky:

I am writing to express my concerns about the high-speed freight rail project proposed by Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. I live in the Village of Clinton, Rock County, Wisconsin. My concerns have to do with the **economic and environmental cost/benefit trade-offs** for the taxpayers. Because the project relies on public funding, the benefits of the project should accrue to the public and offset the costs and risks; therefore, I am asking for a public accounting of what would be transported; who would profit, by how much and in what ways? Additionally, who would face financial loss if this plan goes through? I also ask that this accounting be compared with other options, including: maintaining the *status quo*, upgrading current rail lines and the CREATE proposal currently under consideration in Chicago.

Similarly, I request an accounting of the various costs to citizens and the environment, including the cost to tax payers of the process of eminent domain; the loss of income and environmental degradation of farmland, watersheds and habitat; economic costs to towns and villages resulting from changes to roads; and both risk and cost analysis of potential derailments for increased numbers of high-speed trains carrying hazardous cargo.

I ask that this analysis be short-term, long-term and cumulative. In other words, **I am requesting that you demonstrate whether or not this proposal is “inconsistent with the public convenience and necessity,” as is your charge under 49 U.S. Code, Section 10901.**

Respectfully,

Carol Wickersham