

CHICAGO OFFICE
8658 S. COTTAGE GROVE
SUITE 404
CHICAGO, IL 60619
(773) 783-8800

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE
401 S. SPRING, 275-S
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-6476

www.RepElgieSims34.com
RepSims34@gmail.com



ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ELGIE R. SIMS, JR.
STATE REPRESENTATIVE – 34th DISTRICT

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June 23, 2016

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-001

Dear Mr. Navecky,

Recently, I attended a meeting with constituents of my district regarding the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Project (the "Project.") After reviewing the information made available to the public about the proposed project, it is abundantly clear that additional information is needed to fully answer and address the concerns raised by my constituents. Numerous questions remain in regards to the Environmental Review Process, the Merit Process, and questions pertaining to public involvement, all things necessary to adequately address their concerns.

After contacting the Illinois Department of Transportation, we were notified that because the Project is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, the department is unable to intervene or offer any commentary regarding the Project. Therefore, I am requesting a representative from the Surface Transportation Board (the "Board") attend a Town Hall meeting being hosted on **June 28, 2016 at 6:30 PM in Grant Park, Illinois at Grant Park High School**, and address the project and related questions. The Board's participation is critical as it will offer an opportunity to not only clarify the purpose of the Project and associated processes; it will also give the Board an opportunity to gain insight into the concerns and input into the long term impact this project will have on the local community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elgie R. Sims, Jr.".

Elgie R. Sims, Jr.
State Representative – 34th District