



July 13, 2016

County Clerk

Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

Surface Transportation Board's Office  
of Environmental Analysis  
C/O Dave Navecky  
395 E. Street SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: DOCKET NO. FD 35952  
(Also Sent Via E-file: <http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/index.html>)

Dear Mr. Navecky:

Enclosed is the following Walworth County resolution:

Resolution No. 20-07/16 – Urging the Surface Transportation Board to  
Conduct a Thorough Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed  
Great Lakes Basin Railroad

The Walworth County Board of Supervisors requested that this resolution be  
forwarded to your office at their July 12, 2016 County Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Bushey  
Walworth County Clerk

KSB/ps

Enclosure

**Resolution No. 20 - 07/16**

**Urging the Surface Transportation Board to Conduct a Thorough Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad**

Moved/Sponsored by: Public Works Committee

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc., (“GLBT”) has sought authority from the Surface Transportation Board of the United States Department of Transportation to construct and operate a rail line of approximately 278 miles in length, from LaPorte, Indiana, through the State of Illinois to a point in the Town of Lima in Rock County, Wisconsin; and;

**WHEREAS**, under the current proposal, the rail line may include portions of Walworth County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sharon has adopted a resolution expressing significant concerns regarding the project; and,

**WHEREAS**, among the concerns cited by the Sharon Town Board include the loss of valuable farmland, the potential for environmental contamination, and the inability of emergency personnel to respond to residents in a timely manner due to the closure of roads; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sharon relies upon a volunteer fire department and first responders to meet the safety needs of township residents; and this proposed rail line may require the Town to purchase special equipment and pay for additional training due to the potential of a derailment or accident; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purported benefits of efficiency and time-savings attributed to the proposed rail line must properly be weighed against the enormous tangible and intangible costs that would be imposed on the residents and owners of property through which the rail line would run; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Walworth County Board of Supervisors expresses concern for the possible destruction of farmland, safety relative to the materials being transported, the effects on traffic on local roadways and dead-ends, and potential negative impact on tourism.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a thorough environmental impact study for the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad to weigh the purported benefits of the rail line against the enormous potential costs outlined in this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors opposes shifting the rail line east into Walworth County and the Town of Sharon.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Town of Sharon and the Surface Transportation Board’s Office of Environmental Analysis, c/o Dave Navecky, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.

1 Nancy Russell  
2  
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4 Nancy Russell  
5 County Board Chair  
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Kimberly S. Bushey  
Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

7 County Board Meeting Date: July 12, 2016  
8

9 Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

DA Bretl 6/30/16  
David A. Bretl Date  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

N Andersen 6/30/16  
Nicole Andersen Date  
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This Resolution/Ordinance was:

Adopted: Roll Call/U.C./Voice

Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

Ayes: Noes: Absent:

Date July 12, 2016

**Policy and Fiscal Note**  
**Resolution No. 20 - 07/16**

- I. **Title:** Urging the Surface Transportation Board to Conduct a Thorough Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad
- II. **Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution to encourage the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a thorough environmental impact statement for the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad.
- III. **Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this advisory resolution will have no impact on the County budget.
- IV. **Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

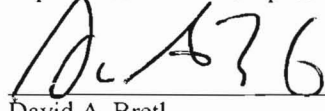
Committee: Public Works

Meeting Date: June 20, 2016

Vote: 5-0

County Board Meeting Date: July 12, 2016

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

 6/30/16

David A. Bretl  
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

 6/30/16

Nicole Andersen  
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.