



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
and Federal Preservation Officer
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Director Rutson:

This letter concerns Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.'s (GLBT) public response to the Board's July 1, 2016 Information Request #1. GLBT's new Preferred Route, announced in their response, includes routing changes which impact landowners in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Of concern to us is the fact that landowners and other interested parties who may be impacted by this new Preferred Route did not have an adequate opportunity to provide public comment on this issue in the earlier Scoping meetings.

NEPA's Scoping Process allows for informed public input regarding GLBT's project, whether for issues with the project's purpose and need, identification of reasonable alternatives, or identification of environmental issues to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement. Potentially impacted landowners, as well as federal, state, and local agencies are all entitled to an opportunity to provide public comments on GLBT's new Preferred Route, as part of the scoping process.

The Environmental Law and Policy Center therefore requests that the Board allow, at minimum, a 60-day period for public comment on GLBT's Response to the Board's Information Request #1 and that additional public hearings be scheduled in communities newly impacted by the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

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