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Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration, Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

STB Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. – Authority to
Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Brown:

On September 9, 2016, the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis asked the applicant in the above-referenced docket, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, to provide certain information including the average number of trains per day forecasted for each segment for both the first year of operations and for an unspecified future year. On November 10, 2016, Great Lakes Basin Transportation provided some estimates "projecting the number of trains operating over each segment of the proposed railroad." However, it specifically noted that the "volume of traffic that would be carried on the proposed line ... depends on many factors [including] the business decisions of GLBR's connecting railroads...."

Norfolk Southern appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the information provided for the STB's review. In this case, Norfolk Southern did not provide any input into the projections made by Great Lakes Transportation in its November 10, 2016 response to the STB. Further, and notwithstanding any projections by Great Lakes Basin Transportation to the contrary, Norfolk Southern reiterates its prior message to the STB that it has no plans to use the proposed route. Rather, Norfolk Southern anticipates that it will continue to use either the direct routes that Norfolk Southern currently operates or, for that matter, any of the numerous alternatives otherwise currently available to it. Therefore, to the extent the projections that Great Lake Basin Transportation made in its November 10, 2016 response include Norfolk Southern traffic, those projections are in error.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. S. Thamodaran", written in a cursive style.

Aarthy S. Thamodaran