



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 18, 2016

Ann Cain
Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
1925 S Meridian Rd.
Rockford, IL 61102

RE: Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.—Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Scope of Study, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments on Draft Scope

Dear Ann Cain:

Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) plans to file either a petition for exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502, or an application pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10901, seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line. According to GLBT, the proposed rail line would extend generally from near La Porte, Indiana through Illinois to near Milton, Wisconsin and would connect with existing Class I railroads.

The construction and operation of the proposed GLBT rail line has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts; therefore, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.).

Today, OEA issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the project, Draft Scope of Study, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments on the Draft Scope of Study, which can be viewed on a Board-sponsored project website at www.GreatLakesBasinRailEIS.com by clicking on "Notice of Intent" under "Related Links & Documents." This project website includes a map of the project area including GLBT's proposed alignment.

Following the scoping period, OEA will review the scoping comments and then finalize the Scope of Study including the list of alternatives for the proposed rail line to be carried forward for detailed study in the EIS. ICF International, OEA's third-party contractor, will be assisting OEA throughout the EIS process.

We invite you to participate in this EIS scoping process and would appreciate your written comments on the Draft Scope of Study and potential alternatives to GLBT's proposed alignment by the close of the scoping comment period on **May 16, 2016**.

We encourage you to submit your scoping comments electronically on the Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link on the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Log-in accounts are not needed to file environmental comments electronically, and comments may be typed into the text box provided or attached as a file. If you have difficulties with the e-filing process, please call 202-245-0350.

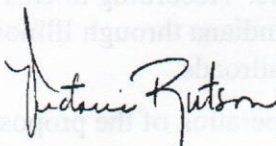
You can also send your written comments to Dave Navecky, OEA's Project Manager for the EIS, at:

Mr. Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Please sign up to be added to the project's email distribution list to receive future communications in a timely manner. To sign up, please go to the project website at www.GreatLakesBasinRailEIS.com, click on "Project Mailing List" and complete and submit the form.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dave Navecky by phone at 202-245-0294 or email at David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov. We look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis