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September 23, 2016

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
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Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Re: Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.—Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin: Request for additional public comment due to GLBT's Response to Information Request #1

Dear Director Rutson:

Yesterday, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.'s (GLBT) responses to the Board's July 1, 2016, Information Request #1 were made publicly available. In response to the Board's request, GLBT submitted a new Preferred Route which includes significant routing changes impacting landowners in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. GLBT's new Preferred Route eliminates Boone County, Illinois from consideration while impacting new landowners in Kankakee, Ogle and Winnebago Counties. We are concerned that landowners who may be impacted by GLBT's new Preferred Route had no opportunity to provide public comment as part of the Scoping Process.

The purpose of the Scoping Process under NEPA is to allow informed public input on the purpose and need for GLBT's project, identify all reasonable alternatives, and identify environmental issues to be addressed as part of the EIS. The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS published by the Board in the Federal Register on March 18th, informed the public of GLBT's original Preferred Route. In response to public input from the Scoping Process, GLBT submitted a new Preferred Route after the close of public comment. Potentially impacted landowners, Federal, State and local agencies are entitled to notice and an opportunity to provide public comment on GLBT's new Preferred Route as part of the Scoping Process. GLBT has submitted one route, and public input on this route prior to the issuance of a draft EIS is essential.

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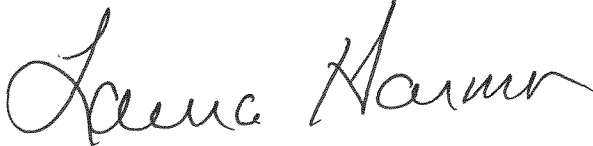
To: Victoria Rutson, Director
Re: Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.—Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin: Request for additional public comment due to GLBT's Response to Information Request #1

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On behalf of the farmers, landowners, and members of the Illinois Farm Bureau who may be impacted by GLBT's new Preferred Route, which was disclosed after the close of public comment, we request that the Board allow a minimum 60-day period for public comment on GLBT's Response to Information Request #1.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



Laura A. Harmon
Senior Counsel