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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:

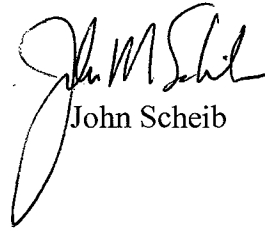
This is in response to the Surface Transportation Board's request for comments on the draft scope of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement review, and specifically the draft purpose and need.

We understand that the purpose and need is to “provide Class I railroads ... with more efficient rail operations by enabling freight rail traffic not destined for or originating in Chicago to bypass the congested Chicago rail network.” Norfolk Southern has a robust route network, with multiple routes into and out of the Chicago area and also owns its own bypass route that runs directly to Kansas City. For this reason, we are not inclined to think that the proposed Great Lakes Basin route would work well with our system or that we would be a user of the route.

Further, and to correct the record, Norfolk Southern does not have a non-disclosure agreement or any other agreement with the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Frank Patton or Jim Wilson. We have not provided them any detail about our current train movements or traffic volumes.

Norfolk Southern thanks you for this opportunity to provide this information and will continue to monitor developments in this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Scheib". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "Scheib".

John Scheib