



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER

Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

243233

May 18, 2017

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 18, 2017
Part of
Public Record

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

Dear Ms. Brown,

The Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) respectfully files this notice of its intent to participate in the above-captioned proceeding as a party of record. ELPC submitted comments regarding the scoping of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc.'s (GLBT) proposed rail line. ELPC advocates for smart and sustainable land use and transportation planning and continues to have serious concerns about the proposal. ELPC has members whose financial, recreational, and aesthetic interests may be harmed if GLBT's application is granted.

ELPC also hereby joins in and supports the request for extensions of time, filed on May 3, 2017 by Thomas F. McFarland on behalf of the Opposition Groups identified therein. The request asks for a 15-day extension for replies to GLBT's Motion for Protective Order, for a total of 35 days to reply, and a 55-day extension to file comments on GLBT's application, for a total of 90 days to file comments. There is no urgency for a quick decision by the Surface Transportation Board on GLBT's application, and the public impact of a new 261-mile railroad around the Chicago area with a 200-foot right of way would be immense. The Board recognized the importance of "public participation by all interested person in this proceeding" in its May 9, 2017 decision. The requested extensions of time would allow greater public participation in this proceeding and would provide parties a better opportunity to fully explore and analyze the issues raised in the application.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Learner
Rachel L. Granneman
Environmental Law & Policy Center
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(312) 673-6500
HLearner@elpc.org
RGranneman@elpc.org

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served all parties of record in this proceeding the foregoing Notice of Intent to Participate by United States mail this 18th of May, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rachel Granneman", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rachel L. Granneman
Environmental Law & Policy Center
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60601