

Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 3, 2016

Victoria Ruston, Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20432-0001

Re: Docket No. FD 35952 Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc.

Dear Director Ruston:

Our offices have been closely monitoring a proposal brought forward by the Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc. (GLBT) to site and run a new railroad line over a substantial portion of private property in Rock County, Wisconsin.

While we have not yet taken a position on the merits of this proposal, we strongly believe all interested residents and business owners should be allowed every opportunity to provide their opinions and ask questions. It has come to our attention that GLBT recently filed a formal response to a Surface Transportation Board (STB) request for information. This response included a proposed track route that is comprehensive but that is substantially altered from the route publicized in its original filing.

Therefore, we write today, and join many other elected officials in southern Wisconsin, to respectfully request – in a manner consistent with all laws, rules, and regulations – that an additional 60-day public comment period be provided by the STB, in order for residents and business owners in the region to share their opinions on the newly proposed route.

As you know, a property's proximity to a proposed train track dramatically and legitimately affects a property owner's interest in the proposal. The changes to GLBT's preferred track siting means that new communities and hundreds, if not thousands, of different constituents would now be potentially affected. Further, this new proposed route was made public after the initial public comment period had ended.

We believe GLBT's proposed project is a serious attempt to alleviate a legitimate American freight rail industry concern, which is persistent, predictable congestion delays involving the Chicago rail yards. We have every expectation that your office will continue a thorough review and analysis, and we look forward to following the process in the months to come.

Again, it is our hope that STB will call for an additional 60-day public comment period on the recently revealed proposed train track route.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator



Paul D. Ryan
Speaker, US House of Representatives