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June 2, 2017

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write in support of Great Lakes Basin Transportation's application to construct the Great Lakes Basin Railroad (Finance Docket No. 35952). I would also like to thank you for your careful and thoughtful review of this project.

In addition to the obvious benefit of reducing delays by increasing rail capacity in the Chicago area, the economic benefits are notable. As stated in its application, Great Lakes Basin estimates this new rail line, which will span three states, to be a \$2.8 billion project.¹ Over the course of three years, construction would create an estimated 3,000 jobs. In addition to these direct jobs 5,500 indirect jobs in surrounding communities and the supply chain will be created. Once complete the Great Lakes Basin Railroad is expected to provide 500 to 600 permanent jobs in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana.²

Great Lakes Basin Transportation has expressed its desire to construct this railway in a safe, efficient, professional manner. The IBEW and other unions representing relevant crafts are ready to supply the manpower necessary for this project. I encourage you to continue to work with Great Lakes Basin Transportation to promptly complete the application process so that construction of this important railway can begin.

I look forward to hearing from you if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:mlm
Copy to Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc.

¹ Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. *Application to Construct and Operate a Railroad Line in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana*, May 1, 2017.
http://www.greatlakesbasinraileis.com/documents/GLBT_Application_050117.pdf
² Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. *Frequently Asked Questions*, June 1, 2017.
<http://www.greatlakesbasin.net/faq>

