

**Town of Sharon**  
**Walworth County, Wisconsin**  
**Resolution #06-02-2016**

**The Scope of Study for Environmental Impact Statement for  
Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad**

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc., (“GLBT”) has sought authority from the Surface Transportation Board of the United States Department of Transportation to construct and operate a rail line of approximately 278 miles in length, from LaPorte, Indiana, through the State of Illinois to a point in the Town of Lima in Rock County, Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the Town of Lima the proposed rail line would pass through the Towns of Johnstown, Bradford and Clinton in Rock County, Wisconsin, said towns being the local units of government under Wisconsin laws governing all of the lands through which the rail line would pass; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction and operation of the proposed rail line would have significant environmental impacts, such that the Office of Environmental Analysis (“OEA”) has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) is required; and

**WHEREAS**, the OEA has, on March 18, 2016, issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, a Notice of Availability of the Draft Scope of Study for the EIS, a Notice of Scoping Meetings, and a Request for Comments on Draft Scope of Study; and

**WHEREAS**, the draft Scope of Study proposes categories to be included in the EIS as follows: transportation systems, safety, land use, recreation, biological resources, water resources, including wetlands and other waters of the United States, navigation, geology and soils, air quality, noise, energy resources, socioeconomics, cultural and historic resources, aesthetics and environmental justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Clinton has adopted a Resolution in opposition to the construction of the proposed rail line; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sharon has concerns that the rail line could be shifted to the east which would impact residential and agricultural land in the Town of Sharon; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed rail line would pass through some of the richest farm land in the world, disrupting the safety and aesthetics of local residents and the economics of local agriculture as well as create severed farm parcels, landlocked parcels and decreased values of houses and farm grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sharon relies upon a volunteer fire department and first responders to meet the safety needs of township residents, a proposed rail line in the Town of Sharon brings the chance for a derailment or chemical spill the issue would arise as to who would be responsible for training volunteer responders and who would pay for the special equipment that would be needed to contain a chemical spill; and

**WHEREAS**, the purported benefits of efficiency and time-savings attributed to the proposed rail line must properly be weighed against the enormous tangible and

intangible costs that would be imposed on the residents and owners of property through which the rail line would run; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sharon has a comprehensive land use plan that designates growth that would use up the least amount of agricultural land, a proposed rail line would contradict that plan;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SHARON THAT:**

1. The Sharon Town Board believes that the purported gains in efficiency from the proposed rail line would be far outweighed by the negative environmental impact from that railroad.
2. The Sharon Town Board calls upon the Surface Transportation Board, as part of the EIS, to assure that the scope of the EIS include a socioeconomic study that weighs the relative impact of the proposed rail line upon social and economic resources in relation to the purported efficiency to be gained from such rail line.
3. The Sharon Town Board, on behalf of the residents of the Town and in the strongest possible terms, expresses its concern and opposition to the construction of the proposed rail line.
4. The Sharon Town Board on behalf of the residents of the Town of Sharon expresses its opposition to shifting any proposed rail line to the Town of Sharon.

This Resolution adopted, approved and recorded on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2016

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Richard Brandl, Chairman

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Matt Shinkus, Supervisor I

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Mary DeYoung, Supervisor II

**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Sharon, Walworth County, Wisconsin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2016, and that on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2016; a copy of the above Resolution was posted in accordance with Wisconsin State Statues. Posted at:

Sharon Town Hall  
Allen's Grove Park  
Town of Sharon website

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Karen Teliszczak, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Sharon