

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
July 6, 2020  
Part of  
Public Record

Submitted Electronically July 6, 2020

Re: *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition – Construction and Operation – in Utah,  
Carbon, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, UT, STB Docket No. FD 36284*

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am a resident and property owner in Salida, Colorado. I am opposed to the Uinta Basin Railway Project, and to the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition's Petition for Exemption dated May 29, 2020 for the following reasons:

The proposed Uinta Basin Railway and the associated potential use of the Tennessee Pass rail line in Colorado will substantially change the character of the Upper Arkansas River Valley where I live work and play. The current Union Pacific rail line running from Leadville to Parkdale has been inactive for decades and the surrounding communities have flourished in the absence of noise, traffic impediments, safety concerns and environmental risk associated with cargo train activity.

Personally, I do not want to live in a small town where 3-10 trains per day interrupt the quiet mountain ambience. I am concerned that the project will negatively impact my property value as well as my quality of life. The impacts to "downstream" communities are just as important as the impacts to Utah and must be considered carefully.

Additionally, the communities along the Tennessee Pass line rely on outdoor recreation tourism which would be disrupted by an active rail line that restricts access to local trail systems, cuts through areas like Brown's Canyon National Monument and runs adjacent to the most popular whitewater paddling destination in the state. I work as the Conservation Director for the Colorado Mountain Club and currently manage the Salida to Leadville Stage & Rail Trail Project ([www.stage-rail.com](http://www.stage-rail.com)) which would be negatively impacted by this project. The proposed non-motorized trail is one of former Governor Hickenlooper's 16 priority connector trails and will provide another tourism opportunity in the region. An active railway will cause access and safety issues for future trail users.

Sincerely,



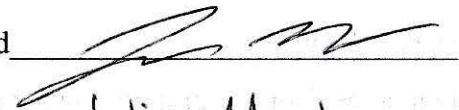
Julie Mach  
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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, I caused a copy of the foregoing Letter to be served on all parties of record by email, online comment portal (Utah Governor's Office), or first class mail, postage prepaid.

Signed

Print Name

  
Julie Mach