

July 7, 2020

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Via Electronic Filing

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 7, 2020
Part of
Public Record

**Argyle
Wilderness
Preservation**



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

Cc: Kathryn Kusske Floyd – Venable LLP – via email at kkfloyd@venable.com
Thomas McFarland – Thomas F. McFarland, P.C. – via email at mcfarland@aol.com
Honorable Gary R. Herbert – State of Utah Office of The Governor – via certified mail

Dear Ms. Brown:

I represent a group of over 400 landowners in the Argyle Canyon, Avintaquin Canyon, and Indian Canyon areas through which the proposed UBR would be constructed. I am a landowner in the Argyle Canyon area. I am submitting letters in a combined .pdf format from concerned and affected landowners and other parties from the following individuals in addition to those that I sent earlier today:

Donald Evan and Debbie Jones
Shawn Harding
Sandi Keele
Ralph Keele

I plead with the Board to review and understand the concerns and feelings expressed in these letters. We are a community that will be absolutely affected and devastated by the proposed Uinta Basin Railway project, and the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition and its co-conspirators refuse to provide detailed maps, financial documentation, engineering design and studies, and other project information and documentation that should be accessible to the public, especially to those of us who will be forever impacted. We therefore rely heavily on the Surface Transportation Board to carefully evaluate this project and its proponents. Please hold them accountable.

Sincerely,



Darrell Fordham
Argyle Wilderness Preservation Alliance
511 South 600 East
Lehi, Utah 84043
(801) 301-4190
darrellfordham@hotmail.com



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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 landowner in the Argyle Canyon area. 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:

It is time someone does the right thing!

Is it right for the SCS to be unaccountable for their actions and use of large amounts of money?

Is it right to have closed door and secret meetings about my property?

Is it right to withhold property owners comments in meetings, to not be informed or involved in discussions that directly affect families?

Is it right to claim the railway will improve economic conditions in these counties when they are in need of so many other services this money could really help with?

Is it right to take away trucking jobs that are needed and wanted?

Is it right to manipulate construction cost to look less than it is? And ignore economic factors?

Is it right that some people can say yes to this project without even walking the path where it would be? And the families it will affect?

Is it right to permanently scar a mountain for a fake or future abandoned railway?

Is it right to put families on the mountain in danger because we know for a fact railways spark fires?

Is it right to line the pockets of a few, when hundreds will lose the land we worked hard for?

Is it right to ruin a beautiful mountain with wildlife, springs and years of hard work of building a family gathering place? Our land doesn't have a big fancy cabin, just a camp trailer, but it is just right for our family.

Is it right that families are being harassed by the county for wanting to save our families land?

Is it right to say "NO railroad thank you ", not today or in the future!! It would be very wrong on so many levels to let the SCS do this project.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO THE FAMILY LAND OWNERS

Donald Evan and Debbie Jones

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 7th day of July 2020, I caused a copy of the foregoing Letter to be served on all parties of record by email or first class mail, postage prepaid.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Darrell Fordham', written over a horizontal line.

Print Name

Darrell Fordham

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Dear Ms. Brown:

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The coalition claims that their project is financially feasible, but refuses to provide us as landowners information even though it has been requested several times. They continue to work in secrecy, and often refuses any public commenting at their monthly board meetings. They have also given the wrong address's for public meetings, making it hard for the public to attend and have their voices be heard. The coalition states that the railway is an important public need but condemns the public's efforts to be actively involved. Since they work in such secrecy, it isn't hard to see that all the great things the Coalition is claiming the railroad would bring, is actually false information. I will present all of the negative impacts it will cause.

Not only will the Railway take away our private land that my family and I have worked so hard for, but it will permanently alter water resources, permanently damage the landscape, it will impact the life of wildlife, pose threats of wildfires, will affect the safety of my family, will greatly impact free range grazing, will ruin the peace, quiet and tranquility in our canyon and will make our properties and cabins valueless due to the noise and disruption of trains passing around the clock.

We have expressed these concerns repeatedly only for the Coalition to ignore our concerns. The STB is our last hope, please don't believe the lies that Coalition has been telling. It is not fair for them to come in ruin our private land to benefit a single oil industry. If this is a public project they need to use public land, even if that means adhering to the Bureau of land management's EIS process's and associated cost.

Shawn Harding

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Dear Ms. Brown:

I am a landowner in the Argyle Canyon area. 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:

As a landowner I feel the railway construction will require construction of access roads, tunnels, communication towers, road crossings, culverts, and stream crossings. These will all damage the landscape and will impact wildlife, watersheds, groundwater, erosion and landslide potentials, and will greatly increase the risk of wildfires.

Our cabin is located across from the proposed tunnels the number of trains per day has varied greatly since we became aware of this project.

We have heard numbers between 7 and 16 trains per day. This would mean we will hear a passing train every 2 to 3 hours. Given the steep areas of the canyon where our community is located these trains which are estimated to be a mile long will result in us hearing noise from passing trains nearly non-stop. This will completely ruin the peace and quiet and tranquility in our canyon and will render our properties and cabins useless and valueless and who would like to listen to this all day when going to your cabin for some peace and quite.

The 2014 UDOT study said that the routes through Indian Canyon and the Argyle Canyon area were too steep, too rugged, and too expensive. Now, years later, the Coalition would have you believe somehow that the mountains have shrunk and the slopes have flattened and now the railway will be 1/3 of the previously estimated cost, yet they will not back up any of these claims with documentation or engineering that the public can view. We are just supposed to "trust" them?

I say NO to the construction through Indian Canyon.

Sandi Keele
Land Owner

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Ralph Keele
Land Owner

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