



Surface Transportation Board
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State of Utah
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P.O. Box 142220
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Lieutenant Governor Spencer J. Cox
State of Utah
350 North State Street, Suite 220
P.O. Box 142325
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President J. Stuart Adams
Utah State Senate
3271 E 1875 N
Layton, UT 84040

Speaker Brad Wilson
Utah House of Representatives
350 N State Street, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Governor Herbert, Lieutenant Governor Cox, Senate President Adams, and House Speaker Wilson:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposed rail line that would connect the Uinta Basin in Utah to the interstate rail network. We appreciate knowing your support for the project. Your letter, along with this response, will be entered into the docket.

As you know, on May 29, 2020, the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition) filed a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. § 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10901 for authorization to construct and operate an approximately 85-mile rail line connecting the Uinta Basin to the national rail network. The Coalition asks that the Board issue a preliminary decision addressing the transportation aspects of the project while the environmental review is ongoing.

With respect to the environmental review, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on October 30, 2020, and held virtual public meetings to receive oral comments, the last of which took place on December 3, 2020. Written comments to the Draft EIS were to be due on December 14, 2020, but that deadline was extended 45 days to January 28, 2021, following extension requests from a number of parties, including the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, due to the impact of COVID-19. The extended public comment period will afford the tribe and others a total of 90 days to comment.

While we cannot comment on the merits of the Coalition's rail line proposal because it is currently pending before the Board, please know that we are giving thoughtful and timely consideration to the petition and all filings submitted in the proceeding.

Again, thank you for taking the time to inform us of your views. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact us or Lucille Marvin, the Board's Director of the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at (202) 245-0238.

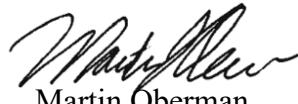
Sincerely,



Ann Begeman
Chairman



Patrick Fuchs
Board Member



Martin Oberman
Vice Chairman