

To:

Cynthia Brown

Chief, Section of Administration Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings

395 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

January 14, 2021

Part of

Public Record

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to notify the Administration know that as a local resident and business owner from Salida, CO near Browns Canyon in Colorado the following: Browns Canyon is a special protected wilderness area that is special due to the fact that no trains, cars, or other motorized vehicles are permitted anywhere in the canyon. If trains started using the canyon, it would lose it's feel of wilderness. There are fewer and fewer places for people to go get away, and these places need to be protected.

The Colorado Midland and Pacific Railway recently signed a lease agreement with Union Pacific to use the Tennessee Pass rail line, which runs through Browns Canyon National Monument. Simultaneously, CMP filed for an exemption from regulations that should apply to this lease and ensuing rail operations.

I believe that the proposed transaction is neither "routine" nor "noncontroversial" and, therefore, does not qualify for an exemption. Additionally, I believe statements in the CMP application are either false or misleading, which should disqualify the request for an exemption.

Please keep our wilderness area in Browns Canyon protected as it is and do not start running trains through there.

Thank You

Bryan Ward

Owner / Moonlight Pizza & Brewpub

Salida, CO 81201

CC: Parties of Record