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January 15, 2021
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Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Re. Docket Number **FD 36471**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Colorado River Outfitters Association is a member group of outfitters who rely on the river corridors around the state for business operations.

The drainages that the Colorado Midland and Pacific Railway has leased from the Union Pacific on the Tennessee Pass Line are vital to the commerce of river outfitting along the Eagle and Arkansas rivers. Browns Canyon, in combination with Bighorn Sheep Canyon, the Royal Gorge along the Arkansas, and all stretches of the Eagle River provide recreation for over 215,000 rafting and kayaking commercial clients annually. This is an annual \$68 million economic impact to the river communities of Buena Vista, Salida, Canon City, Leadville, Vail, Beaver Creek, Avon, Edwards, Eagle, and Gypsum.

One question that keeps arising among our members is has there been a full environmental impact review? Or is there one required? Although we certainly do not object to the Railway conducting business operations, we are concerned about accidental spills. What happens to the river corridor in the event of a spill? What provisions are in place to handle such an event? The outfitting industry (rafting, kayaking, fishing) in the river basin would be devastated and perhaps for a long time. Are there provisions in place for those that might be economically harmed?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cole Bangert
Chair
Colorado River Outfitters Association

David Costlow
Executive Director
Colorado River Outfitters Association

Cc: parties of record