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Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Reference: Docket No. FD 36471, Colorado, Midland & Pacific Railway Company --Lease and
Operation Exemption Containing Interchange Commitment-- Union Pacific Railroad
Company

Dear Cynthia Brown

I am writing to you to express concerns regarding Colorado Midland and Pacific Railway's application for an exemption of Board approval for the lease and operation of 163.1 miles of the Tennessee Pass Rail line.

I am a resident of Buena Vista Colorado since 2013 and live within the city limits and within walking distance of "downtown". My family and myself made the decision to move here after careful consideration of the benefits that Buena Vista and the Arkansas Valley offered. Among these benefits are a quiet mountain town, where restaurants and stores are easily and safely accessible by walking. The home we purchased is approximately ½ mile from the railroad tracks through town. Multiple trains through town would almost certainly have a substantial impact on the quiet nature of our neighborhood. The railroad tracks run essential right through the downtown of Buena Vista and would have a substantial impact on the town from noise and the safety of pedestrians in the downtown area.

I am also an avid kayaker and paddle stretches of the Arkansas River from Granite down to Canon City. Reintroducing rail traffic will have a substantial impact of the kayaking experience through the entire length of river (approximately 85 miles) that is routinely kayaked by me and many others. Another consideration in this regard is that Buena Vista and Salida are tourist towns and rely in large part on the vacationers that come to whitewater raft (and stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, and visit shops). Railroad traffic would likely impact tourism and the economic livelihood of Buena Vista, Salida and the surrounding valley.

Another concern is the newly created Browns Canyon National Monument. This canyon on amazing and unique in its rocky and arid riparian environment. Rail traffic would significantly impact this National Monument. If there was ever a derailment of a train carrying oil or other hazardous substances, it would be a disaster for the environment and the economy of the Arkansas Valley. Obviously, an impact from a derailment would extend downstream into the agricultural regions of eastern Colorado and beyond.

Given the impacts that reintroduced rail traffic would have to Buena Vista, the Arkansas Valley, and the surrounding environment, I respectfully ask that you deny Colorado, Midland & Pacific Railway Company a Lease and Operation Exemption.

Sincerely,



Kent Montgomery

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cc: Parties of Record