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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 No. FD 36471

Dear Ms. Brown,

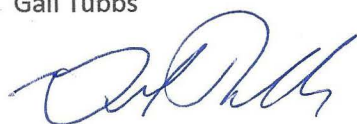
I am writing to object to the Colorado Midland Pacific Railway's (CMPR) filing for an exemption from regulations and the idea that there would be trains, either freight or passenger, on the railroad tracks next to my home. From what I understand, CMPR has claimed that they have an exemption because they are continuing existing operations, that there will not be an increase of rail traffic, and that the proposed transaction is "routine" and "non-controversial". As I understand it there hasn't been any rail traffic on this line for 24 years and the idea of having rail traffic now is neither routine nor non-controversial.

My personal interest in the project is two-fold. First, my residence is approximately 1,500 feet from the rail line. Our neighborhood is extremely quiet and scenic. My only interaction with the rail line is sometimes walking along it. I've attached a picture of my puppy along the tracks to emphasize the scenic nature of the area and how there is no rail traffic. I am concerned about the noise, dust and potential accidents along the line. This concern is amplified because my residence also sits on the Arkansas River, which is noted for its unspoiled beauty, abundant recreation and gold medal fishing. Any potential accident on this railway could have a devastating effect on the river and hence my property values. I have also uploaded a view of the river in autumn from my deck.

Secondly, I'm writing as a member of the board of Colorado Whitewater Association.
<https://coloradowhitewater.org/> Colorado Whitewater is a non-profit organization that has been promoting whitewater paddling and river conservation since 1954. Colorado Whitewater objects to any development along the Arkansas and especially through Brown's Canyon National Monument because the river is the most commercially rafted river in the United States and one of the mostly heavily used rivers in the United States by private boaters. Any accident along the Arkansas River could have a devastating impact on the commercial rafting industry, private boating on the river, and in turn on the local economy that has increasingly relied upon river sports in the 24 years since there was a train on these tracks. The Arkansas River valley is not the same valley as it was 24 years ago and the risks to the economy are significantly higher than they were then.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Tubbs



Cc: Parties of Record



