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Chief, Section of Administration

Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings

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Rivers and watersheds are some of our country's most prized possessions. We depend on these rivers and watersheds as they make vital connections from their sources to other rivers like a network that weaves throughout our country all the way to the east and west coasts as well as the Gulf of Mexico. This network of rivers serves us as people and citizens of this country along the way in towns and cities and we depend on these rivers for water and recreation, for the health and wellness of us all. We must do all we can to protect these rivers and watersheds in even the most remotest of places because again everything is connected, intertwined. The proposal to once again make the rail line active through Brown's Canyon on the Arkansas River and on the Eagle River goes against the interests of us all no matter where we live. A short-term financial gain for parties involved is not worth a risk of destruction of these rivers to the detriment of us all. Also, with these trains being so close to the rivers, one's enjoyment of these beautiful spaces becomes tarnished in a way that is hard to recapture even after the train has passed. People care about these places because they are unspoiled enclaves that we can escape to. Once that is gone, then the people will be gone and the care and nurturing of these rivers will also go away. So, I would like to voice my disapproval of the Colorado Midland and Pacific Railway notice of exemption for lease and operations of the Tennessee Pass line that runs through the Eagle and Arkansas Valleys to Parkdale. As you can see, this is more than a local issue – I am from Iowa but care deeply to do what we can to preserve these special places all over our county so all, not just those in Colorado, can enjoy and appreciate the wonder and splendor of these rivers and know that we did the right thing in protecting them for generations to come.

Yours truly,

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CC: Parties of Record