

Submission Number: *UBR-DEIS-00451-0019***Received:** 1/27/2021 12:00:00 AM**Commenter:** Lori McDonald**Organization:****State:** Utah**Agency:** STB**Initiative:** Uinta Basin Railway EIS**Attachments:** No Attachments**Submission Text**

I urge you to choose the no-action alternative for the proposed Uinta Basin Railway. I live in Utah and know the proposed railway would do irreparable harm to our region's air, water, land and wildlife and should not be built. The draft environmental impact statement fails at what it's supposed to do: assess the harm this oil railway could have on the environment, wildlife and nearby communities and will contribute irreversibly to increased greenhouse gas emissions. Our climate is already at a tipping point. Traversing roadless areas, steep canyons and rugged terrain, the railway will degrade more than 10,000 acres of habitat for migratory wildlife and will harm important habitat needed by the rare greater sage grouse and the endangered Barnaby ridge-cross. The preferred project route would run almost the entire length of Utah's Indian Canyon Creek, crossing and degrading more than 400 streams and important wetlands along the Price River - harming the semi-arid state's precious perennial waterways. The Uinta Basin Railway would harm people who live and recreate in both states. Landowners in Utah's Argyle Canyon and nearby off-grid canyon communities fear the disruptive noise, traffic delays, and clouds of diesel smoke oil trains will bring along the proposed routes - not to mention the significant potential for accidents, derailments, spills and even sparks that could ignite disastrous wildfires. And people in Colorado won't escape the air pollution drifting downwind from Uinta Basin, even as the railway rips through a national monument and other scenic areas supporting outdoorsy tourism many locals rely on for their livelihood. This project is an unacceptable threat to the health, safety and well-being of wildlife, humans and the planet. Please choose the no-action alternative.