

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2021

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Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

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Dear Chairman Oberman,

As you know, the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (“the Coalition”) is in the middle of their Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed Uinta Basin Railway Project (UBRY). This undertaking represents one of the most important infrastructure efforts to occur in rural Utah—let alone rural America—in decades. We request that the Surface Transportation Board continue to work with the Coalition and fairly consider their application in a timely manner.

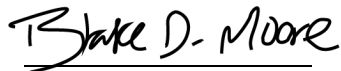
The Uinta Basin has long been plagued by inefficient freight transportation, which has hampered the economic vitality of the area and presents a considerable obstacle to diversifying future growth, increasing transportation safety, and reducing congestion. The Utah Geological Survey reports that oil and gas fields in the region “produced about 24 million barrels of oil and 280 billion cubic feet of gas in 2016.” Currently, the oil and gas industries are dependent on trucking over Utah Highway 40 to transport the Basin’s crude to five refineries located in the Salt Lake City area. For most of the route, only two-lane highways—often congested by snowstorms, traffic, or accidents—are available for use. The alternate route is a two-lane road over Utah Highway 191, which is currently plagued with similar safety and weather events and by heavy truck traffic.

The railway project was initiated by an innovative private-public partnership composed of the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, and the Rio Grande Pacific Corporation. No federal funds will be used to build the project and once the project is completed, the Ute Indian Tribe of Uintah and Ouray will own a percentage of the company.

If approved, the Uinta Basin Railway Project will boost economic opportunity and local job creation by allowing energy, agricultural, mining products, and manufactured goods, to reach global markets more easily. Connecting these industries will provide an improved economic future for the Ute tribe and all of eastern Utah.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the Coalition's application and once again ask for fair consideration of it in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Blake Moore
Member of Congress



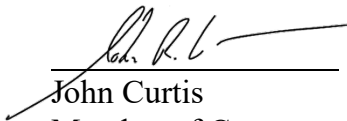
Mike Lee
Senator



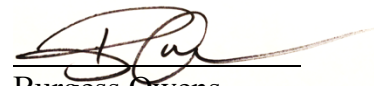
Mitt Romney
Senator



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



John Curtis
Member of Congress



Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

cc: Patrick J. Fuchs, Surface Transportation Board Member
Ann Begeman, Surface Transportation Board Member
Michelle A. Schultz, Surface Transportation Board Member
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