

UINTAH COUNTY

STATE OF UTAH

Our Past is The Nation's Future



September 3, 2019

Joshua Wayland
Surface Transportation Board
C/O 9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

COMMISSIONERS:

William C. Stringer
Brad G. Horrocks
Bart N. Haslem

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ATTORNEY - Greg Lamb
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TREASURER - Wendi Long
SHERIFF - Steve Labrum
SURVEYOR - John Slaugh

ATTN: Environmental Filing Docket No. FD 36284

Mr. Wayland,

Uintah County strongly supports the Uinta Basin Railway project. We support the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition's preferred route through Indian Canyon as it will bring increased economic opportunity, jobs, and stable employment to our County. The railway will enable us to diversify our economy, strengthen our government services, and help keep our families together.

The railway will connect various Uinta Basin industries to regional and national markets, which will lead to a boost in jobs and economic stability for our communities. Not only will direct jobs from the railway and the shipper terminals be a boost to our local economy, but also indirect and induced jobs from the economic opportunities generated by the region's main industries of oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, and mining. This benefits Uintah County through increased taxes and royalty payments that help us with much-needed investments for our shared infrastructure needs, such as roads, utilities and schools.

Uintah County also asks the Surface Transportation Board to consider the need for additional transportation infrastructure and the safety benefits that come from the Uinta Basin Railway.

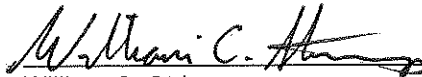
All freight moving in and out of the Uinta Basin is currently limited to semi-trucks travelling along two-lane highways: U.S. Highway 191 and U.S. Highway 40. The safety of our constituents as they travel is significantly important to each of our elected officials and is a growing concern to our communities and constituents.

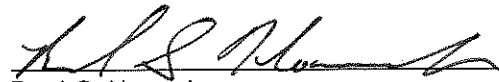
Delays on the two-lane highways in weather conditions that require extreme caution also means long travel times, additional safety concerns and mitigation to roadways that are a financial burden on counties and the State of Utah. The Uinta Basin Railway will alleviate the highway congestion and our public costs of local roadway maintenance and capacity expansion.

Uintah County appreciates the opportunity to submit comment on the Uinta Basin Railway project.

Sincerely,

UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION


William C. Stringer


Brad G. Horrocks


Bart N. Haslem