

Dave Navecky
David.Navecky@stb.gov
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423 202-245-0294

Re: Request to Withhold Approval (STB Finance Dockets No. 36524 and 36525
Savage Tooele RR Cos.)

March 18, 2022

Dear Director Navecky:

The last 50 years of my life have been inextricably tied to the Great Salt Lake (GSL). Perhaps you are not aware that the GSL is its own magnificent ecosystem. The lake, and not just the lake, but all of its surroundings are THE key link for migrating birds in the Interior West. These are birds that travel twice a year to and from breeding grounds, as far as the tip of South America to the Arctic. Not all bird species travel that distance, but many do. Others nest around the GSL in grasslands, islands, wetlands, and sloughs. For all of this, the GSL has become a sacred place to many, not just the indigenous peoples, but also those of us who have delighted in the joys to be found at this one-of-a-kind inland sea.

Understandably, you are a transportation expert and so that is why I am taking time to tell you about this marvelous place. Yes, transportation is important, but it must be balanced with our natural world. Otherwise, we are dooming the next generations and our wildlife that we so adore. This proposed rail line completely threatens the wetlands, and all the outlying natural areas rimming the GSL. For this alone, this project is very ill conceived and must be stopped. There are other reasons that are critical as well: adverse noise and dust effects to a small community and water quality issues galore. Please, I urge you to look long and hard at this proposal and deny approval for it. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely yours,
/e - signed/
Mary Ann Wright
Mary Ann Wright
187 R Street
SLC, UT 84103