

Chairman Patrick Fuchs and Esteemed Members of the Board,

CC: Parties of Record

I am writing to urge you to deny the lease of Union Pacific rail to Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad as specified in docket number FD 36818. I have serious concerns regarding the proposed lease of these facilities and track from a Class I to a Class III railroad.

I have lived within earshot of this proposed rail lease area my whole life, and certainly within the impact area of any potential dangerous outcome from a derailment or other safety issue involving the dangerous cargo that is frequently conveyed through the community.

This will impact the local and regional economic environment for local/regional businesses and shippers. The level of service provided will be impacted by this change, impacting the community and local/regional economy given that the lease will impact the operation of short line, branch, and spur lines to businesses in the area.

I believe this transfer will lead to significantly diminished safety conditions for employees as well as neighbors living adjacent to rail yards and railroad tracks. Additionally, this attempt at shifting liability to a class III railroad will not be good for our community, environment, or economy. Currently UP is responsible for environmental groundwater cleanup, stewardship in the proposed lease area, will CORP/UP be able to continue this important work if this lease is approved, or will it be abandoned like CORP did with Coos Bay/line? It is demonstrated that CORP is not a good environmental steward and lacks the financial resources for large liabilities, as demonstrated by their historical negligent actions.

Currently, Union Pacific and SMART Transportation Division union members perform at the highest level of safety, with stringent rules and regulations in place to protect employees and maintain safety standards. Union members have decades of experience and training in these yards, which is invaluable and irreplaceable. Should this lease be approved, union members will lose jobs, to be replaced by a smaller, less experienced, minimally trained non-union workforce.

Without such stringent safety measures and no union to advocate for them, the risk of accidents and emergencies will be heightened.

These railways transport a variety of dangerous explosive, flammable and toxic pollutants on a daily basis. We cannot put our families, our neighbors, and our communities at risk by weakening safety protections in the name of corporate profit. This lease affects 27.58 miles of track through neighborhoods. One mistake, one inspection oversight or one failure of equipment could have catastrophic consequences.

The people of Eugene and Lane County have deep concerns about the fact that the CORP railroad company is Class III railroad and thus is a limited liability company compared to Union Pacific. The Eugene rail yard handles dangerous chemicals every day, including all chlorine agricultural chemicals and anhydrous ammonia. In the case of a disastrous event - a spill, a chemical release, a runaway rail car, a fire or explosion - a class III railroad company has limited

resources and limited liability to address the situation, clean up the problem, and compensate, injured community members or pay for loss of property use.

CORP has a poor track record. In Coos Bay, CORP failed to maintain their yards and protect the community when it shut down and abandoned its operations there. We are concerned that it could abandon operations here, too, should something disastrous happen, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill for clean up.

For the safety of our community, economy and protection of rail employees and our environment, please deny the lease of Union Pacific's track and yard to CORP. Thank you.