



01.31.24

Dear Ms. Poole,

I am writing to request a timely release of the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) approval for the Savage Tooele Railroad (STR) and its proposed rail line to serve tenants of the Lakeview Business Park (LBP) in Grantsville, Utah. Utah would benefit economically and environmentally from this project. There is currently insufficient rail infrastructure to accommodate the demands of a rising population for manufacturing, distribution, and warehousing facilities.

The draft EA concluded the STR would have no impacts on several environmental resource areas, including air quality, energy, land use, zoning, local plans, and historic resources. The impacts of the proposed action range from “no impacts” to “some impacts, which can be minimized with mitigation.” Given the findings of the draft EA, it appears that the proposed STR would not pose significant environmental risks and that any potential risks can be effectively mitigated.

The implementation of the project will result in benefits consistent with state and federal objectives concerning more environmentally sustainable movement of freight by shifting the mode of transportation from truck to rail. With rail connectivity into the LBP enabling businesses to receive and ship materials and products via rail, it is estimated that more than half a million commercial truck trips and over a quarter of a billion commercial vehicle miles traveled will be avoided within the first 20 years of the project’s implementation.

I am confident in the applicant's objective of providing safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable movement of freight, which supports the economic vitality in the region and the state of Utah. On behalf of the Utah Inland Port Authority, I respectfully request your timely release of the final EA and full approval of the STR's application.

Sincerely,

Ben Hart
Executive Director

