

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
January 19, 2021
Part of
Public Record

To:

Cynthia Brown / Chief, Section of Admin Surface Transportation Board Office of Proceedings
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. FD 36471

I live in Salida Colorado and I am strongly opposed to the reinstatement of the Tennessee Pass line to be used for any freight hauling - particularly oil shipments. The pristine Arkansas River is a recreation hub. Browns Canyon National Monument is to our west and the Royal Gorge to our east. The Minturn section of this line is historically fraught with derailments and problems. Even one mishap on this line would not only disturb wildlife, it would endanger the drinking water for our town and those downstream, not to mention the recreational interested which drive our local economy.

PLEASE reject the Notices of Exemption filed by the Colorado, Midland, and Pacific Railway Company to restart operations on 163 miles of abandoned rail line in Colorado.

Passenger service on this line was stopped in 1967 and the rail line completely abandoned in 1996 due to derailments, other difficulties and operating costs.

Since then, this area has come to rely on vibrant outdoor recreation, and conservation, that is dependent upon a clean, safe, and healthy environment, including clean air and water. Browns Canyon National Monument was designated to protect a portion of the Arkansas River between Salida and Buena Vista, which the current abandoned line runs through.

The company seeking the exemptions claims there will be no environmental impacts associated with resuming operations of the rail line. This is absurd. Restarting operations would increase traffic by 100%. This will lead to a myriad of very serious potential environmental impacts.

The Notices of Exemption filed by the Colorado, Midland, and Pacific Railway Company are an attempt to sidestep environmental and public scrutiny and are not in the best interest of my town (Salida CO), Chaffee County or the state of Colorado. The proposal must be rejected.

Francie Bomer
225 D Street
Salida CO 81201

Fbomer55@gmail.com

cc: all parties of record