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June 30, 2011

Mr. Charlie Felkins
Union Pacific Railroad
100 West 4th Street
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Re: City of Ozark, AR
Railroad Crossing Request

Dear Mr. Felkins,

I'm writing to clear up an apparent misunderstanding regarding the City of Ozark's request for an easement across the UP tracks to build a pedestrian crossing. At this point, we are only interested in an "at grade crossing" at your recommended location just west of the Depot Museum. This crossing is to replace the one removed by UP in 2003. The new proposed location is the area previously recommended by Union Pacific, and the AHTD to Main Street Ozark, and the City of Ozark as being the safest location. We have funds for the "at grade crossing" with safety gates. The overhead crossing drawings were specifically submitted to you in the event that Union Pacific removed the existing switch to allow for more property to accommodate an overhead pedestrian structure. It is our understanding that there are no plans to remove the existing switch.

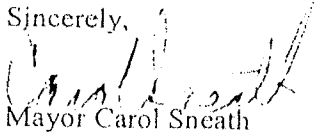
We continue to lose much needed job creation and tax revenue because of our inability to access the Arkansas River from downtown Ozark. We have been approached by the operators of the riverboat, "Arkansas Queen", numerous flotillas and tour groups wanting to visit Ozark via the Arkansas River. Access to the Arkansas River from downtown is needed to attract the known pleasure boating tourist dollars into our community. We also have a private investor willing to build up to a 110 boat slip marina on the south side of the river, contingent to our gaining access to downtown on the north side.

According to our logs, most of the UP trains coming through downtown at speeds of 45mph to 55mph are daily rattling windows in close-by businesses. Over the last few years, we have had major development downtown along the riverfront. We have added a new United States Post Office, Rivertowne BBQ, Ozark Area Depot Museum, an antique mall and remodeled expansion of the Franklin County jail located in the River Street district.

This riverfront area is the centerpiece of our tourism development future and we are seriously concerned about the possibility of a derailment in the downtown vicinity due to the present excessive speed of the trains. If there were to be such an accident in this busy riverfront location we could lose our entire historic district, not to mention the potential loss of life. Our goal is to work with UP to make the area safer by slowing train speeds and installing a designated pedestrian crossing with safety features to accommodate visiting river traffic into downtown. This access is vital to the future economic survival of our small community. As conditions exist now, there is nothing preventing the general public from crossing the UP railroad tracks anywhere in the downtown area. An "at grade" pedestrian crossing will make it much safer to cross the railroad tracks to the Arkansas River.

We respectfully request your cooperation in approving the "at grade" pedestrian crossing so we can move forward in creating the estimated 187 jobs projected by the University of Arkansas for the Riverfront Development and create a safer environment for visitors and residents.

Sincerely,



Mayor Carol Sneath

cc:

Union Pacific V.P. - Mike Rock
U.S. Congressman Steve Womack
U.S. Congressman Mike Ross
U.S. Senator John Boozman
U.S. Senator Mark Pryor