

Kiowa County



June 18, 2015

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

238812
ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 13, 2015
Part of Public Record

RE: Docket No. AB603 (sub-no. 4x)
V&S Railroad Abandonment proceedings on Towner Line

Dear Ms. Brown,

It has come to our attention that V&S Railway has filed for an abandonment of the entire Towner Line serving all of Kiowa and Crowley counties, a small portion of Otero county, and a portion of Pueblo County all of these being Colorado counties. As stated by Mr. Fritz Kahn, P.C. in his correspondence dated June 4, 2015 giving Verified Notice of Exempt Abandonment of the Towner Line, Docket No. AB603 (sub.no 4X).

The BOCC, Kiowa County, Colorado adamantly oppose any abandonment of the Towner Line or any portion thereof.

Mismanagement of the Towner Line has already negatively impacted the economy all of the above named counties but especially Kiowa County through a loss of tax revenue, reduced market value for wheat and other grain production and an increased negative impact on county and state highways through a significant increase in truck traffic.

There is a developing market for Proso Millet as human food via shipment to the west coast and then export to Asian countries. The Towner Line would be an integral part of this development.

Abandonment of any portion of the Towner Line will drastically and negatively impact programs administered by the BOCC, Kiowa County, Colorado.

Richard Scott, Chairman
District 1, Sheridan Lake
Cindy McLoud, Commissioner
District 2, Eads
Donald Oswald, Commissioner
District 3, Haswell
Tina Adamson, Administrator

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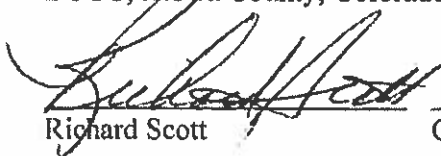
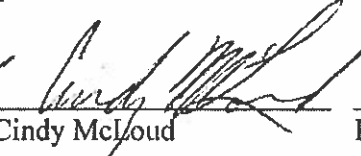
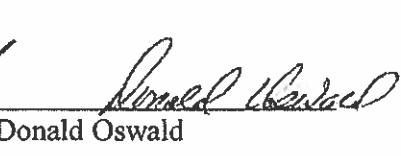
There are at least two very legitimate offers to purchase the entire Towner Line from V&S Railway. These offers should preclude any abandonment procedure.

Should any proceedings move forward concerning this abandonment, the BOCC, Kiowa County will insist on numerous considerations necessary for a legitimate abandonment to include but not necessarily be limited to the following;

- * V&S must complete a thorough and accurate Environmental Impact study that addresses all wildlife issues as well as Noxious Weed infestation established by mismanagement of the Towner Line right of way by V&S Railway.
- * V&S must survey the entire Towner Line and provide plats to all counties involved. Section markers, bench marks, and geological markers must be preserved and or relocated.
- * V&S must remove rails, ties, spikes and any other appurtenances, slag or rail bed material, signal structures, telephone or telegraph poles and wire returning the landscape to its original appearance and structure.
- * All structures of historic nature must be preserved.
- * Structures across waterways or of a non-historic nature must be removed.
- * All crossings at county, state or federal roads must be reconstructed to conform to existing road surfaces.
- * V&S must post a surety bond adequate to cover all costs for any errors or omissions from their performance or non-performance with any abandonment procedure.

Respectfully,

BOCC, Kiowa County, Colorado

		
Richard Scott	Cindy McLoud	Donald Oswald

Cc: Fritz Kahn, P.C.
Crowley County Commissioners
Otero County Commissioners
Pueblo County Commissioners