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P.O. Box 2689 • Waco, Texas 76702-2689 • 254-772-3030

January 26, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423

Received
1/31/07

Attention: Rini Ghosh
STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Texas Farm Bureau, the State's largest agricultural organization, is pleased to offer these comments on the Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed new rail line in Medina County Texas.

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) has provided an opportunity for interested parties to evaluate the impact of additional alternate rail routes to connect the Vulcan Construction Materials, LP (VCM) limestone quarry to the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) rail line near Dunlay, Texas.

Having reviewed the information provided in the SDEIS and the DEIS, it is our opinion that the original Proposed Route (PR) provides the least impacting route for the new rail line to follow. It appears that the PR, as compared to the Alternatives can utilize more available existing rights of way and impact fewer landowners. In addition, the PR appears to allow for greater alignment with property lines thus minimizing the need to bisect productive agricultural land.

Texas Farm Bureau believes that the route that will ultimately be approved, should be the route that has the least impact on the area's farm and ranch land, and utilizes existing rights of way and property lines.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ned Meister, Director
Commodity and Regulatory Activities

NAM:dp