

Wayland, Joshua

From: Jan Ellen Burton <Janellenb@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Wayland, Joshua; Rutson, Vicki; Jhardy@utah.gov; sto@utah.gov; Kstephens08@gmail.com; ggalecki@bowieresources.com
Subject: Please stop the Uintah Basin Railroad Oil Train

I previously wrote a Letter to the Editor in the Salt Lake Tribune regarding the proposed Uintah Basin Railway Project. A big concern with the project is the "preferred" routes traverse steep mountains and will adversely impact wildlife, damaging forests and water. The monetary, environmental and air quality costs would appear to exceed any benefit. If this project is to be completed, the route toward Craig would wreak less destruction. It may, however, be best if this railroad project is scrapped.

It is interesting the Utah Community Impact Board is spending \$21 million to lay the groundwork for a railway, although this money, generated by fees companies pay to allow them to drill, is supposed to be spent on mitigation rather than on making plans for further destruction. For a number of years, I have read about the increasing pollution in the Uintah Basin. Is no mitigation possible? Has the government in Utah given up on improving the quality of life for the children growing up in this basin?

I am skeptical of the logic behind pumping out all of our resources in a relatively short time, as has been done in the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota. What will we then do when all of our resources are gone? Fracking and oil drilling are not pollution free, and we will create significant problems as we exploit our resources.

The estimated doubled or quadrupled petroleum in the Uintah Basin proposed will include tar sands and oil shale projects which have been rejected from more progressive states. We are spending millions on chasing a quick buck rather than seeking ways to help people in rural Utah breathe clean air and be healthy. That is how the mitigation funds are intended to be spent. Additionally, it is clear wildlife and the forest are not considered as being worthy of preservation.

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