

July 29, 2019

Joshua Wayland
Surface Transportation Board
c/o 9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

Attention: environmental filing, Docket No. FD 36284

Dear Mr. Wayland,

We are residents of Utah, writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Uinta Basin Development Project in our state. To date, there has been very little information about the project provided to the public and little opportunity for public participation.

Yet this project, which intends to create a fourfold increase in oil development, will have major negative impacts on the region. We describe some of them below:

Air pollution in the Uinta Basin is already at dangerous levels due to oil and gas development. By quadrupling oil extraction in the region, the problem will intensify, resulting in more asthma and other pollution-related health problems.

The extraction and combustion of four times as much oil from the Uinta Basin threatens our ability to stay under 1.5 degree C warming, and avoid the most disastrous effects of climate change.

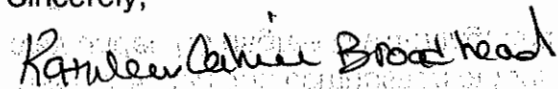
Fossil fuel development requires large amounts of water. Water security for the region is already tenuous. Increased oil development unleashed by the proposed Uinta Basic Railway will seriously threaten the region's water supply.

At least \$27.9 million in public funds have already been illegally dedicated to forward the project and the ultimate cost of the railway would be at least \$1.2 billion. If the railway is constructed, but recoverable oil reserves in the Uinta Basin are exhausted before it is paid off, taxpayers could be left to cover the cost.

The single minded push to go forward with this project is based on a single value: profit – profit above any other human value. What is the actual profit of a plan which will have dire consequences for the people living here, the wildlife, the air and the water in the area, and will add to climate change globally?

Committing funds to constructing the Uinta Basic Railway is precluding efforts to transition away from boom-and-bust fossil fuel economies, which are 19th century energy technologies. In the 21st century we should be moving towards more stable, local, clean, sustainable technologies.

Sincerely,


Kathleen Cahill Broadhead


Robert S. Broadhead