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April 3, 2007

Carolyn Jagge Boehme
1642 U. S. Hwy 90 West
Castroville, Texas 78009

Mr. Larry Oaks
Texas Historical Commission (THC)
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposal to construct and operate a rail line
in Medina County, Texas

Dear Mr. Oaks,

Your help in preserving the historical farming and ranching culture in the Quihi area is respectfully requested. Our property, which is adjacent to the proposed eastern route of the railroad, has been in our farming operation for more than 50 years. My great grandfather, Joseph Mehr, purchased one of the first parcels of land in 1884. My grandfather, my father, and now my husband and my son have actively farmed this original parcel of land, while adding to our farm and preserving the historical state of agriculture in this area.

From information received (maps, meetings, etc.) I understand the eastern routes would divide over double the number of farms and ranches compared to the original proposed route. I also understand the THC is recommending the three eastern routes over the original proposed routes due to historical buildings. My family is descended from the original settlers in this area, and while I certainly appreciate the value of these historical buildings, I feel that it is of equal or greater importance to preserve the heritage of farming and ranching by keeping these agricultural properties intact. It is also my understanding that Southern Gulf Railroad and Vulcan Materials are willing to work to preserve the historical buildings if the original proposed site is selected.

I respectfully request that the THC support the initial proposed route, which is the shortest, most direct route possible.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Jagge Boehme

Cc: Rick Perry, Honorable Governor of Texas
Diana Wood, Surface Transportation