

# E1-2864  
DW  
PD 34284

April 3, 2007

Jared Boehme  
1977 C.R. 4516  
Castroville, TX 78009

Diana Wood  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E. Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001  
Fax Number: 202-245-0454

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

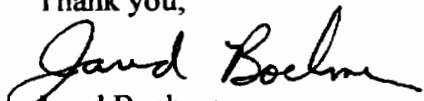
Dear Diana Wood,

My name is Jared Boehme, and I am requesting your help in preserving the historical farming and ranching culture in the Quihi and Bader Settlement area. Land which is adjacent to the eastern routes of the proposed railroad has been in our farming operation for more than fifty years. Dating all the way back to my Great-Great Grandfather receiving the first parcel as a land grant in the mid to late 1800's, we have strived to add to our farm throughout the years to keep this history alive. With the addition of a rail through the property this may no longer be possible.

In the information which I have gathered (maps, meeting, ect.), I understand the eastern routes would divide over double the number of farms and ranches compared to the original proposed routes. Many of these farms and ranches have been in families for well over 100 years, others 50 years plus. I also understand the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is recommending the three eastern routes due to the historical sites in the original path. Being our family is of the original descendants of this area, I appreciate the history in these sites. However, I do not support protecting them at the cost of destroying the historical farming and ranching culture by dividing up much more property than necessary. Farming and ranching land in America is already headed for extinction.

I would like to request that THC change their position to not support the eastern routes over the original routes, and to support the shortest, most direct route possible. I would also request that THC require the Surface Transportation Board, Southern Gulf Railroad, and Vulcan Materials to keep the rail on property lines when at all possible avoiding and preserving as much history as possible.

Thank you,

  
Jared Boehme

Cc: Rick Perry, Governor of Texas  
Larry Oaks, Texas Historical Commission