

My name is Blaine Roberts. As a private citizen, I would like to ask this group to look at the big picture on this project. Look at the 57 thousand people that would benefit from this railroad and not the small numbers that would be affected by it. We have a small group of people who stand to lose their home, some their vacation property and are against it. But we have families that were in the basin and are no longer because they had to foreclose on their houses, they had to file bankruptcy and lose their property, their community and move away to start over. If this project goes through these people who stand to lose their homes will be paid for the property they own. So where as I do feel bad for the people losing their home we have to look at the larger picture and weigh the people this will help vs the people it hurt. This has the potential to be huge for our area and carries with it the possibility of adding some stability to a very up and down market. It is not going to get rid of the nature of the oil boom and bust but it can get rid of the really high highs and the really low lows. It will open up the market to other business' looking at moving in such as manufacturing. We have lost the opportunity to have great business's here because they could not find a way to ship their goods in and out in a reasonable and cost effective manner. The Argyle group continues to bring up the fact of Prices railway and it not doing much for their economy but the fact is that it has kept Price alive for many years through ups and downs. The railroad has been a vital part of Price for over 100 years and will continue to be. One of the main reasons Price is not doing better is because of the 8 years we just went through with an anti-energy/anti-coal administration. It takes time to regrow and restructure and the railroad will be there to help them do just that. They also bring up the fact that this whole thing is happening way too quickly but anyone who has been involved with or studied the history of the Uintah Basin Railroad knows that this has been studied and worked on for the last 30 years. Yes we have momentum now with the public/private partnership and things are moving forward at a fast pace but not fast enough in my opinion. We have families in need of stability and companies that are struggling to survive. Please do your due diligence in the study to make sure this is as minimally impactful to the environment and surrounding area's as possible but it's time we get this done. UDOT has made public statements that they cannot do anything to HWY 40 to expand or increase the flow and without the railway we are stuck in the same position and tied to the SLC refineries that have gouged us on prices and capped our production for far too long. Please approve this railroad so we can get the Basin moving again, bring families home and give this community the much needed support it has been asking for.