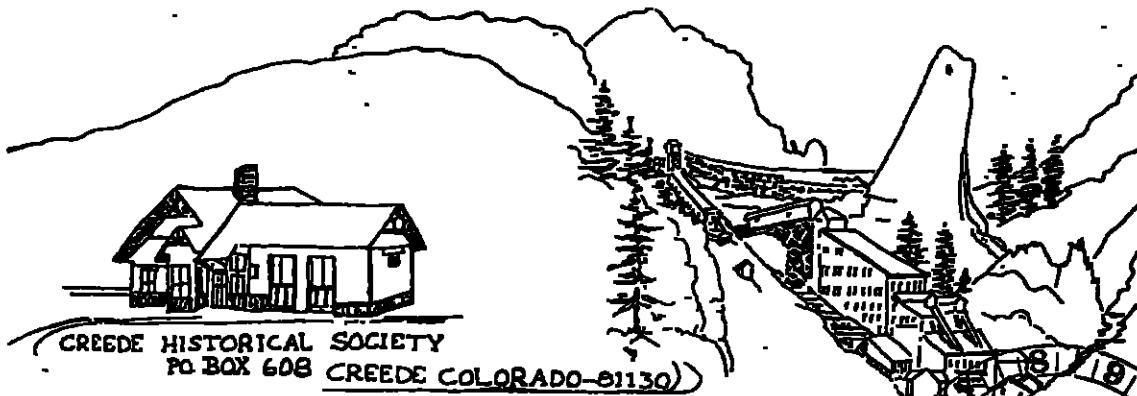


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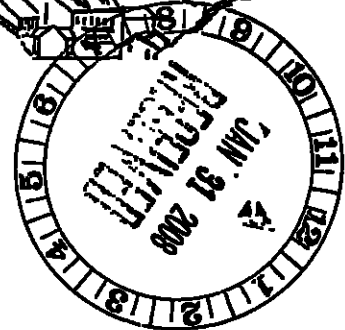
January 21, 2008

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

JAN 31 2008

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Public Record



Re: STB Docket No. AB-1014, Denver & Rio Grande Railway Historical
Foundation---Adverse Abandonment---In Mineral County, CO

Dear Secretary Williams;

The Executive Board of the Creede Historical Society has asked me to address the current issue regarding Don Shank and the former Union Pacific rail line that comes into Creede.

While we recognize that we are not qualified to render an opinion on the legal questions related to the issue, we do have some concerns that we hope will be of value for your consideration.

It is my understanding that one of the factors in the National Surface Transportation Board's approval of the original purchase of the right of way was based on the expressed need for rail freight service to Creede.

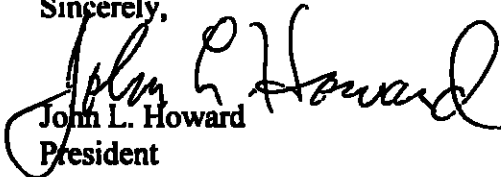
We should note that the last freight train into Creede was about 1971. There was ore production from the area mines after that time, until about 1985. This ore was loaded on the rail southeast of Creede near the Wason Ranch.

It has been our opinion that, regardless of the legal aspects of the situation, freight service into the city limits of Creede is certainly not necessary or even advisable. We do not believe that the disruption of personal and commercial property that would result is in the best interests of the community.

Mr. Shank's efforts at present seem to be to promote groups and individuals who own and operate small rail motorcars coming into Creede. We feel that this activity is more in keeping with the best interests of the community than bringing trains into the town, either for freight or to transport tourists.

The Executive Board of the Creede Historical Society is composed of members of Creede and the surrounding areas of Mineral County. Most are long time residents of the area who volunteer many hours each year to improving our community. We believe that the position we have taken on this matter represents the greater good of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Howard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Howard" clearly distinguishable. It is positioned above the printed name and title.

John L. Howard

President

Creede Historical Society

P.O. Box 608

Creede Historical Society

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused a true and correct copy of my comments in STB Docket No. AB-1014 to be served upon the following persons by first class mail this 21 Day of January, 2008

Clyde Dooley
City Manager
City of Creede
PO Box 457
Creede, CO 81130

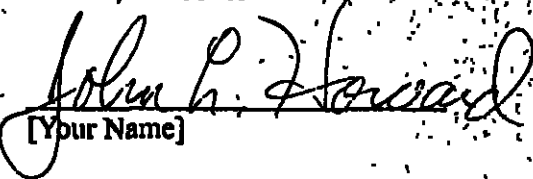
Ronald M. Johnson
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld LLP
1333 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20036

Thomas McFarland
208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1890
Chicago, IL 60604-1112

Donald H. Shank
Denver & Rio Grande Railway Historical Foundation
20 North Broadway
Monte Vista, CO 81144

Office of the Governor of Colorado
Bill Ritter, Governor
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Doug Dean, Director
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202


[Your Name]