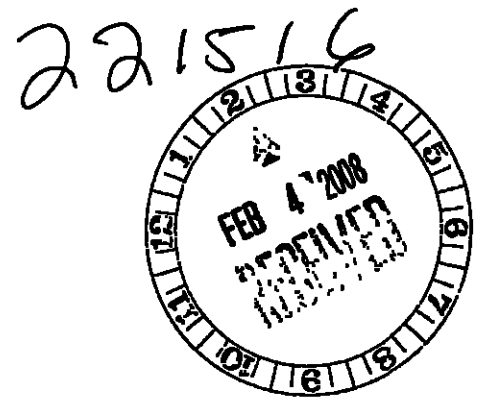


January 2008

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



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

Dear Secretary Williams:

I am submitting these comments in support of the application for adverse abandonment
filed by the City of Creede.

I am a full-time resident and business owner in the City of Creede and have been for five
years. For the decade prior to moving to Creede full time, I was a regular visitor to the
area with my family.

My address is: 123 East First Street (PO Box 840), Creede, CO 81130

I am writing in support of the application for adverse abandonment that has been filed by
the City of Creede. I am writing in support of this application for a number of reasons:

- (1) There have been no railroad operations in the City of Creede since 1971.
- (2) As a business owner I am seriously concerned about the negative effects the
railroad poses for our small town and its future expansion. The public land under
the current railroad tracks could be used for so many more beneficial purposes
than a railroad. Creede is a small, historic mining town that is wedged between
Willow Creek Canyon—therefore, room to grow is at a premium. The railroad
tracks run right through the middle of town, and the public land underneath the
tracks could be used for public parks, expansion of our cultural/theatre center,
expansion of much needed housing for workers who run our tourist-driven
businesses during our busy summer season, construction of a permanent arena for
the Colorado State Mining Competition that is held each year in Creede, etc.
- (3) As the founder and president of Keep Creede Beautiful, a non-profit organization
that focuses on the aesthetic beauty of Creede and on improving the quality of life
for all residents and visitors to our town, I also have a number of concerns about
the railroad. Currently, there are few places in town for children to play safely.
There is a playground on the west side of town, but it was damaged in October
2007 by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway Historical Foundation without notice
because it was on the Foundation's "land." The Foundation is also threatening to
have the playground removed in its entirety. Safe and convenient places for our
children to play are very important to young families in our community (my wife
and I have an 18-month-old daughter). Without these safe play areas, our children

run the risk of being hit by cars or worse. It is my strong opinion that if the application for adverse abandonment is granted for the City of Creede, that the city council will finally be able to do something constructive with this public land that has been sitting vacant for 30+ years and that has been essentially held hostage by Mr. Shank and his Foundation for the past few years.

- (4) As a resident, I want obviously what is best for Creede. Personally, I doubt that Mr. Shank or his Foundation will ever be able to establish a new tourist train on the Creede Branch that will improve our economy according to his public statements. I disagree. Case in point is the Durango & Silverton Railroad, or the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad, both of which are area tourist trains, which survive only with public subsidies. The Creede economy is doing fine without a tourist train.
- (5) Another reason I am in favor of the City of Creede's application is the general welfare of the citizens of Creede. In the past few years, real estate has improved greatly in Creede, despite drops in the market elsewhere throughout the country. This is not true, however, for the land along the railroad as it comes through town. We need a resolution to this issue that will free up this land and these properties so that residents and business owners can continue about their daily lives without threats of being evicted by Mr. Shank or the D&RGRHF. Mr. Shank and the D&RGRHF have repeatedly demanded rent from local businesses and residents—including some who are elderly and/or have low incomes. Something must be done to resolve this problem. The best way to do this in my opinion is for your Board to grant the application for adverse abandonment that the City of Creede has presented.

Thank you for reading my letter and my concerns about the railroad in Creede, Colorado. I've enclosed ten copies of this letter and caused copies to be mailed to the parties to this proceeding. A certificate of service is attached to my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Basler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David R. Basler
Editor and Publisher, Creede Magazine

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 28th day of January, 2008

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

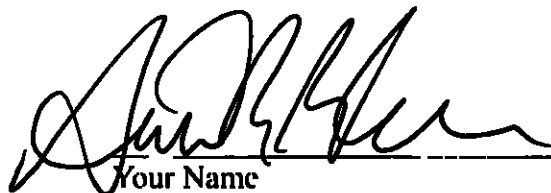
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Donald H. Shank
Denver & Rio Grande Railway Historical Foundation
20 North Broadway
Monte Vista, CO 81144

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