



**SUSAN MORGAN**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
District 2  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

223015

July 19, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket No. AB-515 (Sub-No 2X), *Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad, Inc - Abandonment and Discontinuance - in Coos, Douglas, and Lane Counties, OR (Coquille to Vaughn)*

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

I am a Representative in the Oregon Legislature elected from House District 2 (central and southern Douglas County), and Chair of the Southwest Oregon Transportation Economic Development Workgroup. The Transportation Workgroup is a public/private partnership of citizens from the five southwest Oregon counties. Our mission is to develop the region's transportation system to create a strong base for job retention and creation. I am very appreciative that the STB sent Evelyn Kitay and Katherine Bezold to speak with the Transportation Workgroup in January, 2008.

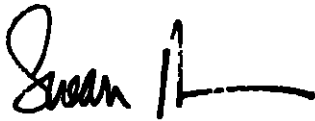
I respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board hold public hearing in Oregon so that local affected citizens can share their concerns about CORP's proposal to abandon the Coos Bay rail line.

The proposed abandonment is a major concern for the entire southwestern Oregon region. For many decades, the rail line has provided the link into the national rail system between coastal communities in Coos, Douglas and Lane Counties, and inland to the communities west of Eugene in Lane County. The area is not located on an Interstate highway, does not have easy access to I-5, and includes several major employers who depend on the line. The manufacturers that use the rail line to bring in raw materials and ship finished goods to market provide family wage jobs with benefits. These manufacturers are already seeing dramatic increases in transportation costs because of CORP's embargo. The potential for job losses in the manufacturing sector is very significant. When local citizens lose their rail-dependent jobs there is a strong likelihood that additional businesses in the service sector will be adversely affected. In short, there is a ripple effect from the lumber and other businesses that depend on the rail line.

Due to the far-reaching consequences of CORP's proposed abandonment, I am respectfully requesting that the Surface Transportation Board hold a public hearing here in Oregon so that community leaders, employers, and affected citizens can voice their concerns. This meeting would provide the Surface Transportation Board with more information regarding the broad impacts of the proposed abandonment. There is widespread and significant community interest in the CORP proposal and the future of the rail line.

I would suggest Eugene as the site for the meeting as it is the terminus of the Coos Bay line, is centrally located to the region, and is easily accessible by air.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Morgan", followed by a horizontal line.

Susan Morgan  
State Representative  
House District 2