



JOANNE VERGER
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 5

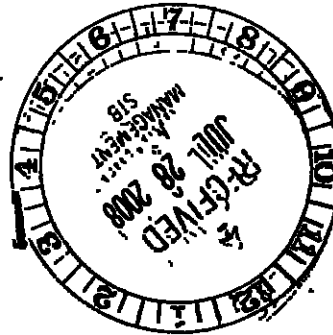
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July 19, 2008

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:

As a Senator in the Oregon Legislature representing Senate District 5, the coastal areas of Coos, Douglas, Lincoln and Lane Counties, and as member of the Senate Transportation Committee, I represent much of the area that will be negatively impacted by the CORP's proposal to abandon the Coos Bay Rail Line. Through my involvement with transportation issues on the state level, I have grave personal concerns about the CORP's proposal.

The proposed abandonment of the Coos Bay rail line of the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad ("CORP") is a major concern for my constituents and the entire southwestern Oregon region. For many decades, the rail line has provided a crucial transportation connection between towns such as Coquille, Coos Bay, North Bend, Reedsport, and Cushman (Florence area) and the rest of the United States. 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 rail line. Of course, any harm to these employers from an abandonment of the rail line will necessarily mean the loss of jobs for local citizens. When local citizens lose their rail-dependent jobs there is a great likelihood that additional businesses, such as retail and restaurants, will be adversely affected. In short, there is a ripple effect from the lumber and other businesses that depend on the rail line.



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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 local citizens can voice their concerns. This meeting would provide the Surface Transportation Board with more information regarding the broad impacts of the proposed abandonment. A field hearing in Oregon would be of great benefit.

Please consider holding the hearing in Eugene.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Verger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joanne Verger
State Senator
Senate District 7