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February 18, 2004



VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 143X), Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Abandonment Exemption - In Wright, Franklin and Cerro
Gordo Counties, IA (Thornton Industrial Lead Between Thornton,
IA and Belmond, IA--Formerly Known as the Fort Dodge Branch)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received a sixth request from the Iowa Trails Council for an additional 180 day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo Counties from M.P. 17.14 near Thornton to M.P. 29.52 near Belmond, for trail use. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use, **however, it will only support an extension of the negotiation period for 90 days commencing February 19, 2004.** A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

cc: Barbara Sadler - <202/565-9004>

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Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
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ph. (312) 777-2055 fx. (312) 777-2065



P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844
Tom F. Neenana, Executive Director

February 14, 2004

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Re.: STB AB 33 (Sub No. 143X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

ITC Board Members

Jay Adams, Muscatella
Perry Baker, Cedar Rapids
Don Benson, Clive
Edna Canton, Ottumwa
Edna Canton, Ottumwa
Jerry Dobson, Iowa City
Dennis Elford, Urbana
Jon Fager, Ames
Joseph Galloway, Des Moines
Stephen Garst, Cedar Rapids
Howard Hammond, Slater
Diane Handler, Cedar Rapids
Lynn Huderek, Cedar Rapids
Robert LaGrange, Vinton
David Lyons, Mt. Vernon
Tom Neenan, Center Point
Marlene Neenan, Center Point
James Ralhe, Waverly
John Rice, Bettendorf
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We are requesting 90 days additional time in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of the soon to be abandoned Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way in Franklin and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa, a stretch of 12.38 miles between the cities of Belmond and Thornton.

I believe that the Union Pacific Railroad is aware of our continued effort to obtain funds for the purchase of this land and that we are confident that we will be able to finalize these negotiations well within the time period requested.

We are forwarding a copy of this letter to the Omaha and Chicago offices of the Union Pacific Railroad and are sending 10 copies of this letter to the Surface Transportation Board via regular mail this day.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Initially by FAX
Union Pacific RR Omaha
Union Pacific RR Chicago
Iowa Department of Transportation

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy-American Trails Society

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