

EI-3061

August 8, 2007

Michael Cassida
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Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Union Pacific Railroad Notice of Exception for Abandonment and Discontinuance
Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 249X)

Members of the Board:

I am in favor of the abandonment of this spur line which bisects our agricultural property, a distance of approximately 3/4 mile. This line has not been used for the past several years and has become an environmental nuisance due to lack of maintenance by the railroad. The entire right of way has become overgrown with weeds which then infiltrate my alfalfa fields costing me additional hundreds of dollars in herbicides. The County Ag Commissioner has been unable to resolve this problem.

We have also had problems with vandalism by people who attempt to use this as a trail for foot and motorbike traffic. Since we use herbicides and insecticides on our fields, restricted entry intervals must be maintained. For these reasons we are opposed to any public use of this right of way. The property should revert back to the private ownership by record of deed of each transected parcel.

Any public use would cause further environmental problems and liabilities in an area already financially struggling to cope with infrastructure problems; ie: sewer, water and schools. There will be no money to build or maintain safe public access.

Yours truly,

Michael Cassida

cc: Office of the Secretary
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

cc: Gabriel S. Meyer, Union Pacific Railroad
Assistant General Attorney
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