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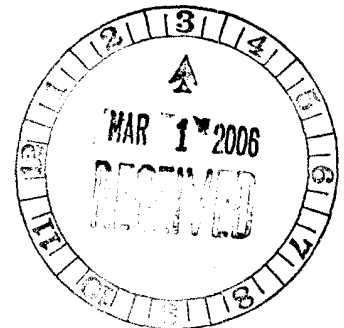
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March 1, 2006

BY HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board - Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20423

Office of Proceedings  
ENTERED  
MAR 2 - 2006  
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Public Record



Re: Finance Docket No. 34672, Union Pacific Railroad Company –  
Acquisition and Operation Exemption – Line of the Burlington  
Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

Dear Secretary Williams:

In the above-referenced proceeding, the Union Pacific Railroad Company (“UP”) proposes to acquire and operate an approximately 23.7 mile rail line between Rockview, Missouri and Sikeston, Missouri (the “Line”). The Line is currently owned and operated by Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (“BNSF”) and runs through the City of Sikeston, Missouri. If UP acquires the Line, it proposes to drastically increase the number of trains operating on the Line. See UP Petition for Exemption at 5-6 (filed March 11, 2005).

As United States Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson demonstrated in her letter to the Board dated January 4, 2006, UP’s plans, if implemented, will have substantial, adverse impacts on communities located along the Line. These adverse impacts are particularly acute at Sikeston. For this reason, the City of Sikeston joins Congresswoman Emerson in opposing UP’s Petition.

By this letter, the City of Sikeston submits that it be made a party to this proceeding, and be included on the service list. The City of Sikeston also requests that the Board take no final action on UP’s Petition until the Board develops, and considers, a full record concerning the adverse impacts UP’s proposal will have on the citizens of Sikeston and surrounding communities. The Board also needs to develop, and consider, a

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full record on alternatives to UP's proposal.

In exemption proceedings, the STB typically develops its record on these issues as part of its environmental review. The City of Sikeston notes that, in a decision served on June 8, 2005, the Board decided that a thorough environmental review of UP's Petition was required "because of the [proposed] increase in the number of trains along the Rockview-Sikeston line." Id. at 1. Since that time, it appears that UP has done little to advance the environmental review process with the Board and, as a result, concerned parties, including the City of Sikeston, have not yet had the opportunity to present appropriate comments to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John LeSeur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "LeSeur" clearly distinguishable.

John H. LeSeur  
An Attorney for the  
City of Sikeston, Missouri

cc: Charles Leible, Esq. (Sikeston City Attorney)  
UP Counsel