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Chairman Patrick Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington DC, 20423

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

Oregon House Speaker Julie Fahey, Oregon State Representatives Nancy Nathanson, John Lively, Lisa Fragala, State Senators James Manning Jr., Floyd Prozanski, Lane County Board Commissioner Pat Farr, and City of Eugene Councilors Lyndsie Leech, Greg Evans, and Randy Groves write to share our thoughts with the plan to transfer service responsibility for the Union Pacific Eugene railyard (Pacific Northwest Service Unit) and nearly 30 miles of surrounding rail from Class I Union Pacific (UP) to the Class III Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP). Our concerns relate to the continuity of service and commerce, and the responsibility for adequate planning, operations, and response to adverse events.

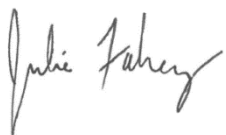
We share the priority and focus of keeping rail shipments running smoothly through our metropolitan area which includes Eugene and Springfield, compromising Oregon's second largest metro area. The proposed lease from a railroad with highly skilled train engineers, conductors, and inspectors to a smaller railroad with fewer resources raises concerns. Fewer staff with less working experience could jeopardize the flow of rail traffic, potentially leading to an adverse effect on local, regional, and interstate commerce. Any accident could delay the transport of goods for hours, days, or weeks depending on the nature and extent of the damage. Freight rail is an integral part of the U.S. economy, and any disruptions running through the Willamette Valley could incur higher costs of goods for consumers and higher output costs from CORP.

Additionally, switching to a railroad with fewer resources raises safety concerns, especially with the shipment of dangerous and hazardous materials that are explosive, flammable, reactive, and toxic on release into the air, onto the ground, into a waterway, or on contact. The railyard is surrounded by industrial, commercial and residential properties. An accident would pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The Eugene railyard is a critical piece of infrastructure in our transportation system, handling many passenger and freight trains each day. Our local fire and emergency response teams have appreciated a collaboration with UP when responding to incidents at the railyard and beyond, including specialized equipment and knowledge. We would appreciate a better understanding of personnel, operations, and emergency response capacity following a transfer to CORP.

For these reasons, please consider delaying the transfer for an opportunity for input from state and local partners in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Speaker Julie Fahey, HD 14



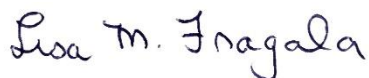
Representative Nancy Nathanson, HD 13



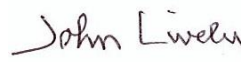
Senator James Manning Jr., SD 7



Senator Floyd Prozanski, SD 4



Representative Lisa Fragala, HD 8



Representative John Lively, HD 7



Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner



Randy Groves, Eugene City Councilor

Greg Evans, Eugene City Councilor

Lyndsie Leech, Eugene City Councilor