

TOWN OF SARATOGA



Councilmen
Kenneth Collamer
Dan Hodgkiss

2/2013

Mayor
Hank Jewell

Councilmen
Steve Wilcoxson
Kate Sherrod

September 10, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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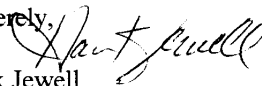
RE: STB Docket No. AB-307 (Sub-No. 5X)

This is to inform you that the governing body of the Town of Saratoga, Saratoga, Wyoming, wishes to enter a protest on the abandonment of the railroad between Saratoga and the Union Pacific mainline at Walcott, Carbon County, Wyoming.

In 2003, the Louisiana Pacific Corp. closed their lumber milling operation in Saratoga. This resulted in a direct loss of 130 employees and several contract employees securing logs for the mill. This lumber mill was the last large private employer in our community. Since it's closure, the mill has been purchased by Intermountain Resources, LLC who is also protesting the abandonment. Intermountain Resources, LLC recognizes the fact that the mill cannot operate profitably without access to a local rail service. Should the abandonment be permitted, there will be no hope for the forest products industry in our area.

Scott Armentrout, District Ranger, US Forest Service, has stated that the Forest Service intends to offer for sale approximately 100 million board feet of timber in the next few years. If there is not a local mill, there will be no purchaser of the timber, and the Forest Service will not be able to implement a healthy forest management plan.

It is our hope, that you give serious consideration to our request for denial of the petition for abandonment on the above mentioned rail line by the Wyoming and Colorado Railroad Company, Inc.

Sincerely,

Hank Jewell
Mayor
Town of Saratoga