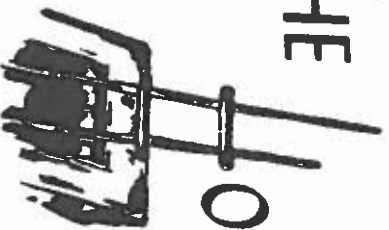


E1-18929

THE HOPÍ TRIBE



LeRoy N. Shingoitewa
CHAIRMAN

Herman G. Honanie
VICE-CHAIRMAN

June 18, 2012

Phillis Johnson-Ball, Deputy Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
Washington D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball,

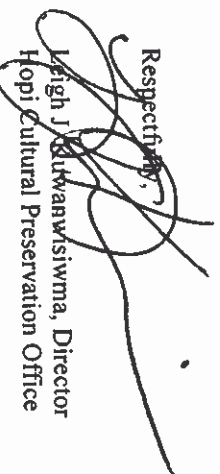
This letter is in response to your correspondence dated June 1, 2012, regarding Finance Docket No. 34075, a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Six County Association of Governments 43-mile rail line between Levan and Salina. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in Utah. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate your solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office is interested in consulting on any proposal in Utah that has the potential to adversely affect prehistoric cultural resources. We previously consulted on this proposal, reviewed the cultural resources survey report of the project area and Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and deferred to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties.

We now understand that additional alternatives have been identified and evaluated, including Alternative B3, which was not previously surveyed for cultural resources, but that no prehistoric sites were identified within the Alternative B3 area of potential effect. Therefore, unless prehistoric sites are identified that will be adversely affected by project activities, we continue to defer to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties.

However, we recommend that if any cultural features or deposits are encountered during project activities, these activities must be discontinued in the immediate area of the remains, and the State Historic Preservation Office must be consulted to evaluate their nature and significance. If any Native American human remains or funerary objects are discovered during construction they shall be immediately reported as required by law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leigh J. Gutwansiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

cc: Utah State Historic Preservation Office