



Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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January 26, 2026

The Honorable Michael F. Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Neguse
2400 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Bennet and Representative Neguse,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding Seven County Infrastructure Coalition—Rail Construction & Operation Exemption—In Utah, Carbon, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, Utah, Docket No. FD 36284 and the motion filed by the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (the Coalition) asking the Board to complete its review on remand and reaffirm its decision authorizing construction and operation of a proposed new rail line in Utah's Uinta Basin. I appreciate hearing your views about the potential impacts of the proposed line on Utah and Colorado.

As you know, on May 29, 2025, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a decision concerning the Board's December 2021 decision approving, subject to certain environmental mitigation conditions, the Coalition's proposed construction and operation of the proposed line. The Supreme Court reversed and remanded the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's August 2023 decision, finding that the D.C. Circuit "incorrectly interpreted [the National Environmental Policy Act] to require the Board to consider the environmental effects of upstream and downstream projects that are separate in time or place from the Uinta Basin Railway." The case is now back before the Board on remand from the D.C. Circuit following the Supreme Court's remand.

Because the Coalition's motion is pending before the Board, I cannot comment further; however, I thank you for sharing your views about the importance of considering the potential impacts of the proposed project. A copy of your letter and this reply have been placed in the docket on the Board's website. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ms. Janie Sheng, Director of the Board's Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance, at 202-245-0238.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Fuchs
Chairman