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Alfred Lomahquahu Jr.
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September 22, 2014

Victoria Ruston, Director
Attention Jeff Irwin
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Director Ruston,

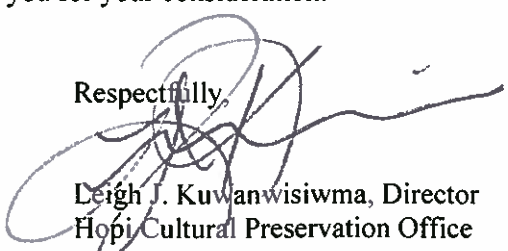
Thank you for your correspondence dated September 5, 2014, regarding a proposed railroad construction project in central Utah. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to earlier identifiable cultural groups in Utah. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of our ancestral sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the Surface transportation Board's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office previously consulted on this proposal. In our most recent letter dated June 18, 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, we stated we are interested in consulting on any proposal in Utah that has the potential to adversely affect prehistoric cultural resources, and we previously reviewed the cultural resources survey report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We understand 26 National Register eligible prehistoric sites will be adversely affected by the project including 16 sites described as lithic scatters, 9 as temporary camps, and one as a possible habitation site. Regarding the proposed Programmatic Agreement, we defer to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties. However, we request continuing consultation including being provided with copies of the draft treatment plan and draft treatment reports for review and comment.

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. Kuwanwisiwma, Director
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office