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April 5, 2005

Via UPS Over-Night Delivery

Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20423-0001

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Office of Proceedings

APR - 6 2005

Part of
Public Record

**Re: Docket No. Ab-33(Sub-No. 153X) - Union Pacific Railroad Company -
- Abandonment Exemption - in Monroe County, IA (Oskaloosa
Subdivision between Eddyville, IA and Maxon, IA)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company ("Union Pacific") has received a third request from the Iowa Trails Council for an 180-day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way in Monroe County, Iowa between Milepost 315.0 and 322.9 for an interim recreational trail. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for interim recreational trail use and supports the Iowa Trails Council's request for an extension of the negotiation period for 180-days commencing April 11, 2005. A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request dated April 4, 2005 is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

An additional ten (10) copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
tas

Enclosures

cc: Tom F. Neenan,
Iowa Trails Council

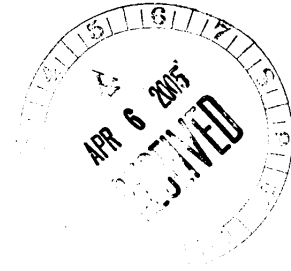
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Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
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April 4, 2005

Vernon Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K St. NW
Washington, D. C., 20423-0001

Re. AB33 (Sub No. 153X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

We have been unable to complete negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad to obtain the soon to be abandoned railroad right-of-way within the time granted to us by the Surface Transportation Board. We have made an offer to purchase this right-of-way for conversion to a trail during an interim period that might lead to reactivation of rail service. We have not received a formal reply to this offer and are awaiting advice from the Railroad as to their intentions in the matter.

The time in which to complete these negotiations, as granted by the STB, is elapsing (April 10) and we are therefore requesting another period of 180 days in which we trust we will be able to complete these negotiations.

We are initially sending this request via FAX and following with ten copies in the U S Mail. We are also sending copies of this request to the Union Pacific Railroad offices in both Chicago and Omaha. We believe that the Railroad will agree to an extension of time in which to complete these negotiations.

Sincerely,


Tom F. Neenan

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy-American

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