

210897



May 13, 2004



VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

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

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 143X), Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Abandonment Exemption - In Wright, Franklin and Cerro
Gordo Counties, IA (Thornton Industrial Lead Between Thornton,
IA and Belmond, IA--Formerly Known as the Fort Dodge Branch)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received a sixth request from the Iowa Trails Council for an additional 180 day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo Counties from M.P. 17.14 near Thornton to M.P. 29.52 near Belmond, for trail use. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use for the requested 180 days commencing on May 19, 2004. A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

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

Very truly yours,

Enclosures

cc: Ann Newman - <202/565-9002>

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Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

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May 7, 2004

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

Reference AS 33 (Sub No. 143X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

We are requiring additional time in which to complete our negotiations for the acquisition of the 12.38 mile Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way between Belmond and Thornton in Wright and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa. We are requesting that our time in which to complete these negotiations be extended for an additional 180 days.

It is our belief that the Union Pacific Railroad is well aware of our continued interest and the need for additional time in which to finalize financial arrangements for this acquisition. We anticipate their agreement to this request for additional time.

We are providing a copy of this request to the Union Pacific offices in Omaha and Chicago and are mailing 10 copies to you under separate cover. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Initially transmitted by FAX

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