

From: [Ran Macdonald](#)
To: [Uinta Basin Rail Environment](#)
Subject: Comments on proposed rail line from Myton UT to Craig CO
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2019 3:09:06 PM
Attachments: [I am writing in support of the proposed rail line from Myton.docx](#)

EI-26694

Attached are my comments.

I am writing in support of the proposed rail line from Myton, UT to Craig, CO. The reasons to complete this project are based on economics. Sending coal, oil and gas liquids, mining ore, and other industrial products by train makes good sense. The emissions associated with moving these products are quite low. A diesel electric locomotive is extremely efficient. This would increase markets for products from Colorado and Utah. It would give Utah access to Denver and the mid-west and Colorado access to Utah and the west coast. The cost of the rail line should not be too high since the distance is short and there are no mountains to cross.

The only potential problem is the environmental community. However, it should be remembered that metro-Denver is no paragon of virtue. They just built a six billion dollar light rail system that only 4 percent of the registered voters in the RTD district use. A different statistic is that less than 8 percent of metro-Denver drivers use the light rail or mass transit. At the same time there is a nine billion dollar shortfall in CO highway construction projects. In addition, the drivers of metro-Denver log 84 million miles per day, six days per week and create great clouds of air pollution. These same people ride jet aircraft for business and vacations as well as cruise ships. The environmental crowd in Denver is trying to shut down coal fired power plants in Colorado and says that these plants emit large amounts of pollution. In Craig, where I live, the power plant emits a good deal less pollution than the drivers of metro-Denver. Last summer, after shutting down some CO coal power plants, there was nearly a brown-out in Denver.

People in western CO have water they use for agriculture. Denver wants that water for their lawns and for growth of new cities between Fort Collins and Pueblo. Denver is not showing much responsibility in their water use.

The Wild Earth Guardians comes here to argue before the BLM that resource extraction harms all Americans. Well, resource extraction puts food on our plates and pays our mortgages. We have been doing resource extraction for more than 100 years and have learned to do it well. The Wild Earth Guardians are looking to sue deep pockets for their personal gain while forgetting about the social problems in their home town of Santa Fe, New Mexico with Hispanics and American Indians who have no jobs and are desperately poor. The Sierra Club is now jumping on this bandwagon as well.

What is really going on is part of the culture wars between Republicans and Democrats. It is politics, not science based policy.

If you would like to contact me, my contact information is below:

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