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February 24, 2012

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-001
Attn: Docket No. FD 35554

Mr. Navecky,

My family's partnership and I own and operate a cattle farm along Elm Creek in Maverick County, Texas that lies in the Eagle Pass Railroad's (EPRR) proposed Corridor number Four. We are opposed to the construction of all railroad corridors, specifically corridor number Four, because of the irreplicable damage that it will cause to this extremely sensitive environmental corridor. Please see the attached *Elm Creek Narrative* for a description of the vital role that this unique ecological corridor serves.

Our family is concerned because Dos Republicas Coal Corporation (DRCC), the owner of the EPRR is one of the many shell companies of the Mexican owned and operated Altos Hornos which is seeking approval to open a coal mine in Eagle Pass. During the twenty years plus years that DRCC has sought approval to conduct mining operations they have showed a complete lack of consideration for the local citizens and environment. EPRR's application demonstrates this same disregard for the special interests of the community.

In an arid landscape, Elm Creek serves a vital role as a riparian corridor for over one hundred species, including the endangered ocelot and jaguarondi. The habitat destruction and fragmentation that would occur from allowing a rail line to traverse over two miles of such an environmentally sensitive region would destroy the ecosystem, further imperiling the native species and making it difficult for the surrounding landowners to conduct the birding and wildlife operations from which they derive their livelihood.

Aside from the direct consequences to the environment, construction of the rail line along Corridor number Four creates a potential for water pollution during construction or in the event of a spill or derailment. This poses a significant risk not only to the environment, but also to the citizens of Eagle Pass, as Elm Creek flows into the Rio Grande upriver of the City of Eagle Pass water intake.

It is for these reasons that my family and our employees urge you to deny EPRR request to construct any of the rail corridors, specifically number Four; or at the very least, require that EPRR be required to submit a complete Environmental Impact Statement.

Respectfully,

Ryland Howard owner & CEO of B&A Ltd.

A. R. Howard

Isabel Howard B&A Ltd. Shareholder

Isabel Howard

Martin Wall & Family Farm operator

Martin Wall

Anson Howard B&A Ltd. Shareholder

Anson Howard

Louisa Howard B&A Ltd. Shareholder

Louisa Howard