

#E1-657  
RR

FD 34284

received  
2/26/04

To whom it may concern:

I am writing with concerns about the possibility of a new railroad spur, described in STB Finance Docket No. 34284 that may be built to serve the new Vulcan quarry near Medina Lake.

This route includes a dedicated dark site to which we have routinely taken Trinity University students for astronomy field trips for several years now. This field trip is the highlight of the semester for our astronomy students, who use new equipment awarded to Trinity under a highly-rated National Science Foundation grant for innovations in undergraduate science education. As deliberations over the choice of railroad routes continue, I would urge you to keep in mind the negative impact that ALTERNATIVE 1 ROUTE would have on educational opportunities for students in Trinity's most popular science course - a course which has been funded in large part by taxpayer dollars through the National Science Foundation.

Sincerely,

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