



A Nonprofit Corporation
Advancing Adventure in Gallup and McKinley County

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September 18, 2012

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: BNSF Railway Company Abandonment Exemption in McKinley County, New Mexico,
[STB Docket No. AB 6 (Sub-No. 485X)]

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is filed on behalf of the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation, which is hereinafter referred to as 'proponent'.

We believe this is a strategic corridor that could provide considerable public good for economic and community purposes, including transportation and/or trail use. While not taking a position on the merits of this abandonment, proponent requests issuance of a Public Use Condition as well as a Certificate or Notice of Interim Trail Use rather than an outright abandonment authorization between milepost 14.50 and milepost 19.61, north of Defiance, in McKinley County, New Mexico.

A. Public Use Condition

Proponent requests the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to find that this property is suitable for other public use, specifically trail use, and to place the following conditions on the abandonment:

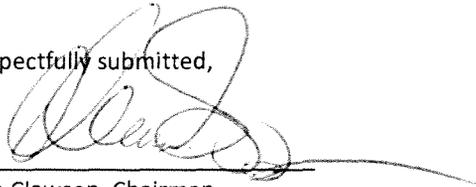
1. An order prohibiting the carrier from disposing of the corridor, other than the tracks, ties and signal equipment, except of public use on reasonable terms. The justification for this condition is that the rail corridor provides a potential strategic connection to major recreational destinations, such as the High Desert Trail System (2012 designated by the Department of Interior as a "National Recreational Trail"), Gallup Shooting Range, and Mentmore Rock Climbing Area. The time period sought is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization. Proponent needs this much time because the County and other affected parties have not had an opportunity to assemble or to review title information, complete a trail plan, or commence negotiations with the carrier.
2. An order barring removal or destruction of potential trail-related structures such as bridges, trestles, culverts and tunnels. The justification for this condition is that these structures have considerable value for public transportation and recreational trail purposes. The time period

requested is 180 days from the effective date of the abandonment authorization for the same reason as indicated above.

B. Interim Trail Use

The railroad right-of-way in this proceeding is suitable for railbanking. In addition to the public use conditions sought above,

Respectfully submitted,



Olin Clawson, Chairman
Adventure Gallup & Beyond