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Executive Director
Tom Neenan, Center Point

December 19, 2001

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

Dear Secretary Williams:

Reference is made to AB 33 (SUB NO. 143X).

We have been unable to finalize negotiations to acquire the railroad right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Iowa's Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo counties, due in part, to changes within the Union Pacific Railroad's Real Estate Department.

We are therefore requesting a granting of an additional period of 180 days in which to complete the negotiations for acquisition of this corridor to be used as a trail under the terms of the National Trails System Act. We believe that you will be notified that the Union Pacific Railroad is agreeable to this extension of time.

We are forwarding copies of this request to the Board and to Mr. Mack H. Shumate, Jr. at the Union Pacific Law Department office in Chicago.

We thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan