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Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director



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May 7, 2004

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

Reference A^B 33 (Sub No. 143X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

We are requiring additional time in which to complete our negotiations for the acquisition of the 12.38 mile Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way between Belmond and Thornton in Wright and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa. We are requesting that our time in which to complete these negotiations be extended for an additional 180 days.

It is our belief that the Union Pacific Railroad is well aware of our continued interest and the need for additional time in which to finalize financial arrangements for this acquisition. We anticipate their agreement to this request for additional time.

We are providing a copy of this request to the Union Pacific offices in Omaha and Chicago and are mailing 10 copies to you under separate cover. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Initially transmitted by FAX

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Executive Director
Tom Neenan, Center Point