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November 5, 2004

VIA U.P.S. OVERNIGHT

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

**RE: Docket AB-33 (Sub-No. 143X), Union Pacific Railroad Company
- Abandonment Exemption - In Wright, Franklin and Cerro
Gordo Counties, IA (Thornton Industrial Lead Between Thornton,
IA and Belmond, IA--Formerly Known as the Fort Dodge Branch)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has received another request from the Iowa Trails Council for an additional 180 day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition of that portion of the Union Pacific's right-of-way between Thornton and Belmond in Franklin, Wright and Cerro Gordo Counties from M.P. 17.14 near Thornton to M.P. 29.52 near Belmond, for trail use. The Union Pacific is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Trails Council concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use for the requested 180 days. A copy of the Iowa Trails Council's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter and exhibit are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures
Cc: Iowa Trails Council

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Public Record

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Senior General Attorney, Law Department

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Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director



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November 5, 2004

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

Ref. AB 33 (Sub No. 143X)

Dear Secretary Williams:

We are asking that more time be given to us to complete negotiations for the acquisition of the soon to be abandoned railroad right-of-way between Belmond and Thornton in Franklin and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa.

The Union Pacific Railroad apparently needs more time in which to consider the offer to purchase made to them. We are therefore requesting an additional 180 days in which to complete these negotiations, although, hopefully, we will not require this much additional time in which to finalize these negotiations.

We are sending a copy of this letter, along with a letter requesting the Railroad's cooperation in approving this additional time for these negotiations to be completed, to Union Pacific offices in Omaha and Chicago.

Your granting this request for additional time will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

Copy Mack H. Shumate Jr., Chicago, IL
John Herdzina, Omaha, NE

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy-American Trails

