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VIA FACSIMILE 202/565-2004 and U.P.S. OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

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

**Re: Proposed Abandonment of the Ankeny Subdivision from M. P. 10.7 near Ankeny to M. P. 341.1 (Equation: 23.20 = 339.60) near Slater, a distance of 14.0 miles in Polk and Story Counties, Iowa;
STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 206X)**

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") received on March 1, 2005, the attached request from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation dated March 1, 2005 for a 180-day extension in which to complete negotiations for the acquisition under the provisions pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 regarding that portion of the UP's right-of-way known as the Ankeny Subdivision from Milepost 10.7 near Ankeny to Milepost 341.1 (Equation: 23.20 = 339.60) near Slater, a distance of 14.0 miles in Polk and Story Counties, Iowa. The UP is willing to continue to negotiate with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation concerning the acquisition of the subject property for trail use and supports the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's request for an extension of the negotiation period for 180 days up to and including September 2, 2005. A copy of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's request is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part hereof.

Enclosed with this original are ten (10) copies of this filing for use by the Board.

Sincerely yours,

Attachment

cc: Terry Guy - STB <202/565-9002>
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

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

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718
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March 1, 2005

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

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

RE: Union Pacific Railroad Abandonment, POLK and STORY Counties in Iowa;

Docket # AB-33 (Sub-No.206X) from Mile post 10.7 near Ankeny to milepost 341.1 near Slater.

Motion to Extend the Time Period for Negotiation of an Interim Trail Use/Railbanking Agreement

In partnership and on behalf of the Polk and Story County Conservation Boards (county government agencies) the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) hereby moves the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) to extend the time period for negotiation of a mutually acceptable interim trail use/railbanking agreement in this proceeding up and including **September 2, 2005**.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Counties have been negotiating with the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR), but the parties need additional time to complete the negotiations.

To successfully preserve this corridor for interim trail use and railbanking under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247 (d), it is necessary for the negotiation period under the NITU to be extended up to and including **September 2, 2004**. See Policy Statement on Rails to Trails



Conversions, Ex Parte No. 274 (Sub. No. 13b) (ICC served Feb. 5, 1990)
(extensions of time promote the establishment of trails and railbanking
consistent with the National Trails System Act).

Since the issuance of the NITU, UPRR at all points has maintained intent to transfer the line intact for interim trail use. The railroad has not sold, or offered for sale, any parcels of land that would interfere with interim trail use and railbanking of the portion of the corridor that is covered by the NITU (Mile post 10.7 near Ankeny to milepost 341.1 near Slater). The line remains intact and throughout the period, the railroad has been negotiating with INHF for the transfer or sale of the corridor intact. Accordingly, the Board retains jurisdiction to extend the NITU to continue bona fide and active negotiations for interim trail use of the line.

In similar instances, this Board has reopened proceedings to permit the issuance of orders implementing section 8(d) for rail lines. The STB's authority to extend a NITU was upheld in Birt v. STB, 90 F.3d 580 (D.C. Cir. 1996). Here the parties merely seek an extension in the period for negotiation provided in a previously issued NITU. Such an extension will promote and further the purposes of the Trails Act.

For the reasons stated, INHF on behalf of the Polk and Story County Conservation Boards requests that an extension of the NITU negotiation period be granted through September 2, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark C. Ackelson
President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

cc: Polk and Story County Conservation Boards



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on March 1, 2005, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing motion has been served to the following party via first-class mail, postage pre-paid and VIA FAX to 312-777-2065.

Mack H. Shumate, Jr.
Union Pacific Railroad
101 N. Wacker Dr. Rm 1920
Chicago, IL 60606-1718

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Ackelson', written over a horizontal line.

Mark C. Ackelson, President
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

cc:

Pat Boddy
Polk County Conservation Board
11407 NW Jester Park Drive
Granger, Iowa 50109

Steve Lekwa
Story County Conservation Board
56461 180th St.
Ames, Iowa 50010

John Peterson
Community Planning
1521 Ordinance Rd.
Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Gwen Ihle
City Clerk
105 Greene St.
Slater, Iowa 50244

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**UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**



Law Department
Chicago

101 N. Wacker Dr.
Room 1920
Chicago, IL 60606

Deliver to: Vernon A. Williams
Terry Guy

Co/Dept: Surface Transportation Board

Fax: 202/565-9004
202/565-9002

From: Mack H. Shumate, Jr.

Phone: 312/777-2055

Date: March 2, 2005

Fax: 312/777-2065

No. of Pages Transmitted - 5 - Including Cover

RE: Proposed Abandonment of the Ankeny Subdivision from M. P. 10.7 near Ankeny to M. P. 341.1 (Equation: 23.20 = 339.60) near Slater, a distance of 14.0 miles in Polk and Story Counties, Iowa; STB Docket No. AB-33 (Sub-No. 206X)

Comments: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's 180 extension request for trail use

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