

215092



November 2, 2005

**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,

*Mack H. Shumate, Jr.*  
*fas*

Enclosures  
Cc: Iowa Trails Council

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

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P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844  
 Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director

November 1, 2005

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

via FAX

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Dear Secretary Williams:

Reference is made to AB 33 (Sub No. 143X), which is a proposed abandonment of a Union Pacific Railroad line between Belmond and Thornton in Wright and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa.

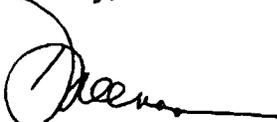
We have not been able to finalize negotiations to acquire this land for conversion to a trail in an interim period, prior to possible reactivation of rail service. We are in contact with the railroad and believe that negotiations are continuing on a favorable note.

We do however require additional time to conclude these negotiations and ask that the Board extend our negotiation time another six months, since the time previously allotted will expire on November 10.

A copy of this request is being faxed to the Union Pacific Railroad office in Chicago and in Omaha. Ten copies are being forwarded to your office by mail this day.

We anticipate the railroad's agreement to the extension of this time period. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
 Tom F. Neenan

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

