



**NEZ PERCE COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

1225 Idaho Street  
P.O. Box 896  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501-0896  
(208) 799-3090  
FAX (208) 799-3149

204437

December 10, 2001



The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Case No. AB-564, Camas Prairie RailNet Abandonment

Dear STB Members:

This letter is to express our concern and request that additional information is provided concerning the Camas Prairie RailNet Inc. abandonment and salvage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Subdivision extending between Grangeville and Spalding, Idaho. Specifically, the County Commissioners remain seriously concerned regarding the transfer of bridge and trestle structures located within our county into a "conservancy" with the intent of implementing a "rails to trails" effort. We request verifiable proof that there is no possibility that the cost of removing these structures could ever be born by taxpayers and/or governmental entities. In addition, we remain concerned regarding long-term liability issues associated with these structures. Apparently, the maintenance of these structures is prohibitively expensive; therefore, we logically question the ability of the conservancy to maintain these structures and/or implement a true "rails to trails" program.

We formally request that the county is provided with specific information that addresses these concerns. Furthermore, the proposed phasing of salvaging operation should not be allowed to occur until the county's concerns are adequately addressed.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

J.R. Van Tassel, Chairman  
Nez Perce County Commissioners

Office of the Secretary

JAN 16 2002

Part of  
Public Record

C: Mary Hasenoehrl, Regional Director, Senator Mike Crapo  
Leann Bifford, Regional Director, Senator Larry Craig  
Office of Attorney General, State of Idaho

J.R. Van Tassel  
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Irwin H. Caufield  
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