

Lewis County

COMMISSIONERS:
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December 10, 2001

204432

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 2nd 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,

Joe Leitch, Chairman
Lewis County Commissioners

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

[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]