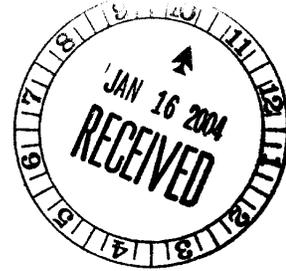


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January 15, 2004

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 a sixth 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, **however, it will only support an extension of the negotiation period for 45 days commencing January 5, 2004.** 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.

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

JAN 16 2003

Enclosures **Part of
Public Record**

Very truly yours,
Mack H. Shumate, Jr.

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

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD
101 N. Wacker Dr., Rm. 1920, Chicago, IL 60606-1718
ph. (312) 777-2055 fx. (312) 777-2065



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

RECEIVED

JAN - 5 2004

LAW DEPARTMENT
UNION PACIFIC RR CO.

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January 2, 2003

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

Re. AB 33 (Sub No 143X)

Dear Mr. Williams:

We have, as yet, not been able to conclude negotiations for the acquisition of the Union Pacific railroad right-of-way between Belmont and Thornton in Wright County and Cerro Gordo counties in Iowa, for conversion to a trail. Grant funding has become very difficult to obtain and we are not able, at this time, to raise sufficient funds to meet the asking price of the Railroad. We are continuing our effort in this regard and are hoping money will be freed up in 2004.

We are requesting another 180 day extension of time in which to complete these negotiations. We are mailing ten copies of this request and are faxing this day a copy of our request to the Union Pacific Railroad offices in Omaha and Chicago.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, I remain

Sincerely,

Tom F. Neenan

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

EXHIBIT
A