



May 25, 2023

**MEMBER JURISDICTIONS**  
City of Glenwood Springs

**ROUTT COUNTY**  
City of Steamboat Springs  
Town of Hayden

**EAGLE COUNTY**  
Avon  
Basalt  
Eagle  
Gypsum  
Minturn  
Red Cliff  
Vail

**GRAND COUNTY**  
Fraser  
Granby  
Grand Lake  
Hot Sulphur Springs  
Kremmling  
Winter Park

**JACKSON COUNTY**  
Walden

**PITKIN COUNTY**  
Aspen  
Snowmass Village

**SUMMIT COUNTY**  
Breckenridge  
Blue River  
Dillon  
Frisco  
Montezuma  
Silverthorne

Address  
Governor? Colorado Delegation? STB?

Dear ,

In 2021, the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) approved the 88-mile rail network connecting Utah to the Gulf Coast named the Uinta Basin Railway Project (Project). On behalf of our 30-member jurisdiction, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments is writing in opposition to the Project. If completed, the Project would transport up to 4.6 billion gallons of waxy crude oil per year on the Union Pacific mainline which follows the Colorado River through many of our region’s drought-stricken areas including the Glenwood Canyon which is still recovering from 2020 wildfires.

NWCCOG concurs with letters in opposition to the Uinta Basin Railway Project from many of our jurisdictions including Eagle County who sued to challenge the STB approval which did not consider climate impacts required by the Biden administration. Eagle County Board of County Commissioners identified several major risks, “recognizing that a dramatic increase in rail traffic represents a commensurate increase in risk (of spark-induced wildfire, vehicle conflicts, derailments, water contamination, toxic spills, etc”. Concerns are that STB did not accurately consider the full impact of increasing train volume on an already high traffic rail, nor did they consider the risk of a potential catastrophic toxic spill so near the Colorado River.

As the 208 Administrator for the region, the NWCCOG Members agree with QQ Water Quality and Quantity Committee request for opposition to the Project from the Colorado Delegation citing “heavy crude oils are highly toxic and very difficult to remove from a water source; contamination is severe and long-term. In addition, oil train derailments could cause devastating forest fires in Colorado’s mountains,” notinh four recent train disasters that involved hazardous materials resulting in potential serious health and environment impacts. An oil spill near the Colorado River headwaters could prove devastating for the environment and the 40 million people and major cities across the west that heavily depend on it for drinking and critical needs water.

We appreciate your attention to this highly important matter and urge you to object to the Uinta Basin Railway Project.

Sincerely,

Northwest Colorado Council of Governments