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Sent: Friday, August 18, 2023 1:11 PM
To: Whitney, John (Bennet) <John_Whitney@bennet.senate.gov>
Subject: Senator Bennet, Congressman Neguse Applaud D.C. Circuit Court Decision Overruling STB Approval of Uinta Basin Railway

Great news for Colorado out of DC today! Details below.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 18, 2023

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Senator Bennet, Congressman Neguse Applaud D.C. Circuit Court Decision Overruling STB Approval of Uinta Basin Railway

Bennet, Neguse Have Led the Effort in Washington to Halt the Project without Supplemental Review

Denver — Today, Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and U.S. Representative Joe Neguse released the following statement after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit [overruled](#) the Surface Transportation Board (STB) approval of the Uinta Basin Railway Project:

“This ruling is excellent news. The approval process for the Uinta Basin Railway Project has been gravely insufficient, and did not properly account for the project's full risks to Colorado’s communities, water, and environment. A new review must account for all harmful effects of this project on our state, including potential oil spills along the Colorado River and increased wildfire risk. An oil train derailment in the headwaters of the Colorado River would be catastrophic -- not only to Colorado, but the 40 million Americans who rely on it.

“We’re grateful for the leadership of Eagle County and the many organizations and local officials around Colorado who made their voices heard.”

Background:

In April, Bennet, Neguse, and local leaders [highlighted](#) the dangers of the Uinta Basin Railway Project to Coloradans and to the entire Colorado River Basin from the banks of the Colorado River.

In March, Bennet and Neguse [urged](#) the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 Administrator to conduct a supplemental review of the project as prior EPA reviews focused solely on its risks to Utah. Earlier that month, Bennet, Neguse, and U.S. Senator John Hickenlooper [urged](#) U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to consider the risks of approving tax-exempt private activity bonds or any other federal financing mechanisms to fund the project. Bennet and Neguse also [called](#) on U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to suspend the Special Use Authorization for the project until a supplemental review is conducted. In July 2022, Bennet and Neguse [called](#) on the Biden Administration's Council on Environmental Quality to undertake an additional comprehensive review to determine whether previous environmental and risk analyses fully considered the effects of the railway project on Colorado's communities, watersheds, and forests.

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