



February 11, 2022

The Honorable Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator John Hickenlooper
Russell Senate Office Building
Suite SR-374
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Proposed Uinta Basin Railway

Dear Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper:

On behalf of our 40 town, city, and county member governments across Colorado, representing nearly one-quarter of Colorado's population, I am writing to express our concern about the proposed Uinta Basin Railway.

First and foremost, this railway will enable an enormous increase in the volume of fossil fuels extracted from the Uinta Basin. Given the impacts our communities are already suffering from climate change, any proposal that would dramatically increase GHG emissions should be viewed with considerable skepticism and caution.

Beyond the carbon pollution enabled by this proposal, every community along the corridor will be forced to face the risks of derailments, spills, and fires associated with the railway traffic. The consequences of any of these disasters would be severe. These communities are still working to recover from the disasters of the past two years, including catastrophic fire and the subsequent, and also disastrous, mudslides that paralyzed the state's single most important east-west transportation corridor. Climate change will continue to result in more extreme weather events and climate changed-fueled natural disasters, a reality that every community in Colorado will have to grapple with. These communities should not also have to face the risks tied to an unnecessary project that will contribute further to the climate process.

We ask and encourage you to take all possible steps to encourage the Forest Service to reject the right-of-way.

Respectfully,

Jacob Smith
Executive Director

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