SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

October 4, 2022

Jess Bird
Chairman
Erda City Council
2163 W Erda Way
Erda, UT 84074

By email at jbird@erda.gov

RE: Docket No. FD 36616, Savage Tooele Railroad Company – Construction and Operation Exemption – Line of Railroad in Tooele County, Utah; Preliminary Consultation

Jess Bird:

Savage Tooele Railroad Company (STR) is seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate a new railroad line in Tooele County, Utah, which would in part encompass the reactivation of common carrier rail service over a segment of a previously abandoned rail line. As part of its licensing process, the Board will conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to NEPA and the Board's environmental rules at 49 C.F.R. Part 1105, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) will prepare an environmental document that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rail construction project.

OEA is beginning the process of gathering information on the project area and project-related issues and concerns. We are writing to you to ask you for information on any environmental resources that may be affected by the proposed project and request your comments. Information collected will assist us in preparing the appropriate NEPA document for the proposed project.

Project Background

STR is a non-carrier, wholly owned subsidiary of Savage Enterprises, LLC both of which are subsidiaries of the Savage Companies (founded in Utah in 1946). STR is seeking authority from the Board to reinstitute common carrier freight service over an approximately six-mile segment of a former 15.8-mile branch line (the former "Warner Branch" segment) and construct approximately five miles of new railroad line to extend the reinstated railroad line to and into a

planned developed business and industrial park in Grantsville, Utah, shown in the attached Figure 1. STR would construct track within the business park pursuant to a lease and/or a permanent easement obtained from the business park owners. STR anticipates that the track construction within the park would be phased in over time as the park secures new tenants. The approximately eleven miles of railroad line would re-establish the former branch line's connection to Union Pacific's (UP) Shafter Subdivision at Burmester, Utah, and STR would provide common carrier service over the combined reinstated rail line and newly constructed track to enable tenants of the business park to receive and ship commodities by rail.

Request for Comments

OEA would like to hear from you regarding whether this proposal would require permitting, should additional fieldwork be needed, or any other requirements or concerns from your agency. Please submit your response within 30 days, so that we may be begin the process of identifying the potential impacts of the proposed project.

All filings and other submissions can be submitted electronically through the Board's website at https://stb.gov. To submit a comment, select "File an Environmental Comment" (below the "Need Assistance?" button) on the Board's home page. Please make sure to refer to Docket No. FD 36616 in all correspondence, including e-filings, addressed to the Board. Brief comments can be typed in the comment field provided, and lengthier comments can be attached as Word, Adobe Acrobat, or other file formats.

You may also send written comments to Andrea Poole, OEA's Project Manager for the environmental review by mail to:

Andrea Poole
Surface Transportation Board, OEA
Docket No. FD 36616
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

While paper filings are once again being accepted in accordance with the Board's regulations, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to continue to submit filings via the Board's e-filing system and to consent to e-service of decisions.

We look forward to your participation in the environmental review process. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a call, please feel free to contact Andrea Poole of my staff at 202-245-0305 or by email at Andrea.Poole@stb.gov.

Sincerely,

Danielle Gosselin
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures:
Attachment 1: Proposed Rail Line Location Map
Attachment 2: Agency and Tribal Distribution List

Proposed Rail Line

Existing Railroad

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

N

Attachment 1: Proposed Rail Line Location Map

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Attachment 2: Agency and Tribal Distribution List

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The below table lists all Federal, State and local agencies and Tribal Nations contacted by the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in connection with the above referenced Docket No. FD 36616. Agency name, region/district and contact person is listed for each.

- Melissa McCoy, NEPA Branch Chief, EPA - Region 8
- Yvette Converse, Field Office Supervisor, USFWS - Utah Ecological Services Field Office
- Jason A. Gipson, Branch Chief, USACE - Bountiful Field Office
- Nancy Dragani, Regional Administrator, FEMA - Region 8
- Kelly Jorgensen, Field Office Director, US HUD - Salt Lake City Field Office
- Emily Fife, State Conservationist, USDA - NRCS Utah Office
- Juliana Blackwell, Director, NOAA - National Geodetic Survey
- Eric Dennis, Colonel, US Army - Tooele Army Depot
- Jessie Durham, Acting Regional Director, US Department of the Interior – Indian Affairs Western Division
- Kate Hammond, Acting Regional Director, National Park Service - Regions 6, 7
- Robert Stewart, Region Director, Utah DOT - Region 2
- Jim Golden, Chief Railroad Engineer, Utah DOT - State Safety Oversight
- Chris Merritt, State Historic Preservation Officer, Utah SHPO
- Jill Remington Love, Director, Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement
- Dustin Jansen, Division Director, Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement Division of Indian Affairs
- Redge Johnson, Executive Director, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office
- Kimberly Shelley, Executive Director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Rachelle Custer, Director, Tooele County Department of Economic Development/Planning and Zoning
- Andy Welch, County Manager, Tooele County
- Jared Hamner, Councilman, Tooele County Council District 4
- Tom Tripp, Councilman, Tooele County Council District 5

- Jed Bell, Director, Tooele County Roads Department
- Jeff Coombs, Executive Director, Tooele County Department of Health Services
- Tracy Shaw, County Clerk, Tooele County Clerk's Office
- Regina Nelson, Chairperson, Tooele County Emergency Medical Services Council
- Corey Bullock, Director, Tooele County Parks Department
- Neil Johnson, Chair, City of Grantsville Soil Conservation District 13
- Jesse D. Wilson, City Manager, City of Grantsville
- Jeffrey Miller, Planner, City of Grantsville Planning & Community Development
- Jacob Enslen, Chief of Police, Grantsville City Police Department
- Neil A. Critchlow, Mayor, City of Grantsville
- Jess Bird, Chairman, Erda City Council
- Cory Warnick, Chairman, Erda Planning Commission
- Paul Hansen, Contract Engineer, Tooele City Engineering
- Jamie Grandpre, Director, Tooele City Public Works
- Darwin Cook, Director, Tooele City Parks & Recreation
- Adrian Day, Chief of Police, Tooele City Police Department
- Debbie Winn, Mayor, Tooele City
- Lori Bear, Chairwoman, Skull Valley Band of Goshute
- Virgil Johnson, Chairman, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Nevada and Utah
- Tino Batt, Chairman, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
- Luke Duncan, Chairperson, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah
- Betsy Chapoose, Director, Cultural Rights and Protection Department, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah