



**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
*Section of Environmental Analysis*



**Six County Association of Governments – Construction and Operation Exemption**  
**Rail Line Between Juab and Salina, Utah**  
***Public Scoping Meeting Comment Sheet***

Name: Wesley K. Sorensen

Address: P.O. Box 193

Salina, UT 84654

Comments may be submitted to:

Office of the Secretary  
 Case Control Unit  
 STB Finance Docket No. 34075  
 Surface Transportation Board  
 1925 K Street, NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20423-0001  
 Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball

**Deadline: November 30, 2003**

I believe that the railroad project will bring several benefits to the area including: 1) less truck traffic on the two lane highways between Salina and Levan (State Route 28 and US Highway 50; 2) less cost to the tax payer in maintaining the highways; 3) less air pollution in the valleys, because of less emissions per ton mile with trains versus trucks; and 4) opportunity for economic development in the area.

The railroad will also make the Sufco Mine more cost competitive in the market place. A significant cost to the mine is the transportation of the coal from the mine to the rail loadout near Leavan, Utah. This transportation cost is significantly influenced by the price of diesel fuel. Rail rates would be less susceptible to fluctuating rail rates and would, therefore increase the viability of the continued operation of the Sufco mine.

An early completion of the environmental review would allow the railroad project to proceed in a timely manner and the area can realize the benefits of the project. I endorse the railroad project and realize that the preferred route is a compromise. Some will not be happy with it, but it presents a balance between the needs of the area, safety of the public, the environment and private landowner values. I urge you to consider the preferred alternative as the "best choice" for the railroad.

Sincerely,

  
 Wesley K. Sorensen