

December 8, 2003

To the Secretary of the Surface Transportation Board:

As owners of Barex Dairy, we are writing to request that the proposed railroad be run west of the Piute Canal. We are located west of Centerfield in southern Sanpete county (Section 34 & 35; Township 19 South; Range 1 West). We support the proposed route that was presented at the public scoping meeting a few months ago. That route shows the railroad going west of the canal near our dairy and farm.

If the railroad were to be put on the east side of the canal, it would go directly over two of our farm's wells. Our new well was drilled in July 2003 and cost us \$68,000. These wells are used to water a thousand head of livestock and, more importantly, they provide water to three homes on our farm.

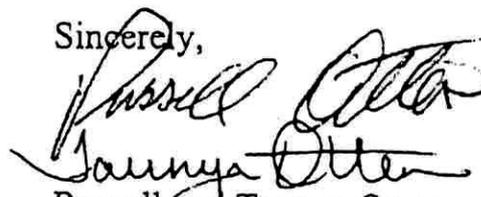
It would also go through the middle of an existing corral and would interfere with our dairy expansion plans. Several years ago, we bought the land just east of the canal for \$750,000 mainly for the purpose of expanding our dairy. If the rails run east of the canal, they would cross through our proposed corrals and severely decrease the value of the land for that expansion. The above mentioned well was the latest step in our expansion and we would like to continue with our plans without interference from the rail road. If it runs west of the canal, we will not be affected by the railroad.

Also, as a home and dairy owner in the area, I am concerned about the noise of the train especially if it has to whistle at crossings. If it stays west of the canal, it will be farther from my home and the homes on our farm. It will also be farther from the corrals and be less likely to disturb the animals.

We are not opposed to the railroad but would like to see damage to farm ground minimized and also minimize the number of necessary crossings for the local farmers. Running the railroad east of the canal will take it through the middle of neighboring farmland, severely decrease the value of our property, increase the necessary crossings, and take it over our wells and through our corrals.

Please leave the rails on the west side of the canal where they will do minimum damage to the existing agricultural interests in the valley.

Sincerely,



Russell and Taunya Otten
Owners Barex Dairy