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The Honorable Robert E. Primus, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Chairman Primus:

I am writing regarding the Board's review of the Pecos Industrial Rail Access Train Extension (PIRATE) project in Docket No. FD 36501. Union Pacific has a strong mindset to engage our customers, identify new opportunities to grow, and find innovative solutions to help our customers win. Every carload matters to Union Pacific in its hunt for new growth. The PIRATE project is a prime example of that growth mindset – we have engaged with Commercial Metals Company (CMC) in moving to grow rail access in Arizona's Pecos Advanced Manufacturing Zone. This is an exciting project that will create jobs, support local businesses, promote economic growth, and take trucks off the highways.

Given the importance of this project to our customers and the local Arizona community, I would urge the STB to provide all stakeholders a clear path and timetable to advance this project. Union Pacific had been working closely with the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis for more than two years on the appropriate environmental and historical reviews before learning that third parties engaged in ground-disturbing activities. We accept and support the necessity of the Agency's investigation into the circumstances that led to entirely unacceptable harms on cultural resources. But for six months, Union Pacific and all other interested stakeholders have been waiting for the agency to provide a clear path forward to resolve the harms and gain the Agency's approval for this exciting growth opportunity. Union Pacific regrets the impact this delay is having on CMC, and we are disappointed our Railroad has been unable to grow carloads and get trucks off the road as a result.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions for what Union Pacific can do to support the completion of STB's important work in the PIRATE matter.

Sincerely,

cc: Janie Sheng, Director
Office of Public Assistance, Government
Affairs, and Compliance