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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milestone Reached for the Uinta Basin Railway Project as the Coalition Submits a Petition for Exemption to the Surface Transportation Board

Uintah Basin, Utah (June 2, 2020) – The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition submitted a Petition for Exemption to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) from the formal evaluation of the transportation merits as they pertain to the Uinta Basin Railway project. The petition filed Friday, May 28, reaches a new milestone for the Uinta Basin Railway as it officially begins STB’s transportation merits evaluation (or exemption) process.

In order to receive an exemption, the Coalition must demonstrate that a full transportation merits proceeding is not necessary to carry out the rail transportation policy set out in the ICC Termination Act (49 U.S.C. § 10101), and that the railway project is either of limited scope, or that a proceeding is not needed to protect shippers from the abuse of market power.

“The Uinta Basin Railway will provide local industries the opportunity to access new markets and increase their competitiveness in the national marketplace,” said Seven County Infrastructure Coalition Executive Director Mike McKee. “This rail option within the Basin will enhance the communities and quality of life for residents of rural Utah.”

There is no specific timeframe by which the STB must issue a decision on the Petition. Separately, the environmental review process will continue on its current schedule. It is common practice for the transportation merits/exemption process to proceed simultaneously with the environmental review process.

The Coalition is the project proponent of the proposed railway that seeks to solve the freight transportation challenges in the Uinta Basin by connecting various industries to the national rail network. This common-carrier railway will move goods in a safe and cost-effective way to enable economic stability, sustainable communities and enriched quality of life.

Learn more about the Uinta Basin Railway project at uintabasinrailway.com.

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***Seven County Infrastructure Coalition:** The Coalition was formed in 2014 in an effort to promote cooperative regional planning, increase economic opportunities, and implement sustainable infrastructure projects. Member counties include Carbon, Daggett, Duchesne, Emery, San Juan, Sevier, and Uintah. Visit SCIC-utah.org.*