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Supreme Court Clears Path for Uinta Basin Railway: A Transformative Win for Utah's Economy and Infrastructure

Uinta Basin, Utah (May 29, 2025) – In a landmark decision issued today, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal environmental review of the Uinta Basin Railway, restoring critical momentum to one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the country. This ruling reopens the door for the responsible construction of the 88-mile rail line, which will connect the Uinta Basin to the national freight network.

"This decision affirms the years of work and collaboration that have gone into making the Uinta Basin Railway a reality," said Keith Heaton, Director of the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, the project's public partner. "It represents a turning point for rural Utah—bringing safer, sustainable, more efficient transportation options, and opening new doors for investment and economic stability. We look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders to deliver this transformative project."

The Uinta Basin Railway is designed to solve long-standing freight transportation challenges by providing a safe, cost-effective, and sustainable solution for moving goods in and out of the region. Spanning Duchesne, Carbon, and Uintah counties—and crossing lands managed by the Ute Indian Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Forest Service, and private owners—the railway will bring new life to a region in need of long-term economic diversification and access to national markets.

"We are proud to support and finance an infrastructure project that strengthens America's economy from the ground up." Mark Michel, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of DHIP Group, the project's private investment partner, added, "The Uinta Basin Railway represents exactly the kind of forward-looking critical investment our country needs—supporting American energy independence, the growth and development of domestic industrial capacity and providing access to rare earth and other critical minerals by reducing transportation bottlenecks and building lasting value for Utah and the nation."

With the Supreme Court's ruling, the project will now resume key next steps, including:

- **Reauthorization by the Surface Transportation Board (STB):** The Coalition will work closely with the STB to reissue construction and operation authority and complete the Endangered Species Act process.
- **Federal Permit Reinstatement:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Forest Service will be engaged to issue and reinstate right-of-way permits vital to the railway's alignment.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** The project remains fully committed to meeting all environmental standards and will continue to engage actively with regulatory agencies and community stakeholders.

- **Project Planning and Financing:** Finalizing construction plans and securing necessary financing with private-sector partners will ensure the project is delivered efficiently and responsibly.
- **Construction Preparation:** A phased construction approach will commence once approvals and logistics are finalized, with a focus on balancing infrastructure progress with environmental stewardship.

The Uinta Basin Railway represents more than a transportation project—it's a generational investment in Utah's rural communities. It will enhance quality of life, create new economic opportunities, and promote sustainability across the region.

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