

NEWS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UTE INDIAN TRIBE OBJECTS TO ACTIONS BY COLORADO ELITES THREATENING TRIBAL ECONOMY AND SAFETY

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The Ute Indian Tribe is a major energy producer that works every day to fund its government and provide economic opportunities for its members. The Tribe also works to keep its members safe and improve infrastructure across its Uintah and Ouray Reservation—the second largest Indian reservation in the United States. Many of these economic and infrastructure benefits extend across Utah and Colorado and would be supported by the construction of the Uinta Basin Railway.

Instead of supporting tribal economic development and safety, Colorado resort and environmental elites sought a decision from a Federal Appeals Court in Washington, D.C. that will send construction of the Railway back to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board for further review. With a median home price of more than \$640,000, Eagle County, Colorado residents and so-called environmentalists at the Center for Biological Diversity took to the courts to try and tell the Ute Indian Tribe how to best manage its resources and support its members.

The Appeals Court decision will keep hundreds of oil tanker semi-trucks traveling more than 100 miles a day on a two-lane road crossing dangerous mountain passes between the Tribe's Reservation and Salt Lake City. Each of these semi-trucks create their own emissions and increase global warming. In addition, each year there are hundreds of crashes and multiple fatalities on this busy road carrying semi-trucks, campers, and tribal families going to work or school in our communities or to get supplies and healthcare in Salt Lake City.

The Ute Indian Tribal Business Committee said, "Once again, the people of Colorado are trying to push aside the Ute Indian Tribe and tell us where and how we should live. These are our ancestral lands that we sustainably managed for generations. We bring that same perspective to energy development and responsibly manage our resources."

The Business Committee continued, "Instead of fighting against responsible energy production that will benefit the Ute Indian Tribe, the people of Colorado should shut down their existing rail traffic already carrying oil to the Denver area." Opposition to the Railway is another dishonorable act taken by Colorado against the Tribe. After forcing the Tribe to relocate to the Utah desert, Colorado refuses to acknowledge the Tribe's retained hunting and fishing rights within Colorado and recently supported President Biden's new National Monument on the Tribe's ancestral lands without consulting with the Tribe.

The Uinta Basin Railway would provide much-needed infrastructure and economic opportunities that will benefit domestic energy production, the construction industry, agriculture, and nearly every segment of the economy. As gas prices creep back above \$4.00 nationally, new and safer routes are needed to get critical energy resources to domestic refineries.

About the Ute Indian Tribe - The Ute Indian Tribe resides on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in northeastern Utah. Three bands of Utes comprise the Ute Indian Tribe: the Whiteriver Band, the Uncompahgre Band, and the Uintah Band. The Tribe has a membership of more than three thousand individuals, with over half living on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Ute Indian Tribe operates its own Tribal government and oversees significant oil and gas deposits on its 4.5-million-acre Reservation. The Tribal Business Committee is the governing council of the Tribe.

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