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RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EL DORADO COUNTY

2011 APR 26 AM 11:08

Ray Nutting
Supervisor, District 2
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

COPY SENT TO BOARD MEMBERS
FOR THEIR INFORMATION

DATE 4/26/11

cc: Agenda Clerk

Dear Supervisor Nutting:

Your district holds the county's largest historical structure and it has come to my attention that the Board of Supervisors has voted to destroy this heritage. I am referring to the proposed conversion of the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad into a bicycle path. Is this county also going to consider proposals to change Placerville Hardware into a Home Depot?

Proponents of the trail suggest that the improvements would be paid through the sale of scrap steel tracks. Will you also vote to tear down the historic bell tower in Placerville and sell it for scrap to stripe bicycle lanes down Main Street? Do you think that the sale of steel will pay for all of the labor and materials needed for a trail? Will the steel sale pay for maintenance? Will it pay for the county's legal fees needed to defend against the lawsuits that will come to prevent destroying this historic rail line?

The Folsom, El Dorado & Sacramento (FEDS) Historical Railroad Association will be able to start operating an excursion train between Folsom and Shingle Springs within two years. Similar excursion trains such as the Skunk Train in Fort Bragg have been such a pleasure for our family to ride and I am sure you can see the tourism potential in such an enterprise. By voting against this proposal, you could be voting to preserve a part of the oldest rail line west of the Mississippi River.

The FEDS Historical Railroad Association would be pleased to help develop a bicycle path that works with the tracks and not to remove them. The excursion trains can offer to carry bicyclists from Folsom up to as far as Shingle Springs and families can enjoy riding downhill back to their cars. You can have the benefits of a bicycle right of way along with preserving our county's history. Please take the destruction of our history off of the agenda and help to safeguard our county's place in history.

Please support the restoration of this rail line and to preserve it so that future generations can appreciate our past.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Wells

