

FL Ranch  
HC 71 Box 4  
Birney, MT 59012

Sept. 11, 1998

Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street N.W., Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

To the Secretary.

I am writing in regard to the proposed "Western Alignment" route, favored by the Tongue River Railroad Company:

STB Finance Docket No. 30186 (Sub-No. 3)

From what I have learned, it would be an irresponsible action on the part of the STB to grant permission for this "Western Alignment." The STB has already permitted one route, the Four Mile Creek Alternative. Tongue River Railroad Company is requesting yet another permit, only because the "Western Alignment" would be more economically expedient for the speculators who are attempting to build it, and without any consideration of the environmental impact whatsoever. For this reason, it is of primary importance that an entirely new Environmental Impact Study be made, encompassing the whole route of the proposed railroad from Miles City to Dickin, Montana. So far, we only have some piecemeal studies of the route, using in part some irrelevant information obtained in the 1980's for an EIS of the non-existent Montee Mine.

The present EIS gives minimal consideration to historical and cultural sites in the area, which will be directly affected by the proposed railroad.

It is my understanding that legislation already exists in regard to the preservation of such sites, that this legislation has been disregarded, and that the right to sue is written into the law if the proper procedures are not followed. We would not hesitate to take legal action if it were justified, and unless there is a new and much more thorough and comprehensive EIS, it will be justified.

The Tongue River Railroad has never been in the public need. It is only for the purpose of hauling coal from Wyoming at less cost to the producers. All coal mines in the area already have rail service. Therefore, how has "public need" been demonstrated? This has not been done. The Tongue River Railroad is not needed in any "alignment," and there is no evidence to support the premise that it is.

Sincerely,  
Nancy W. Carrel  
Nancy W. Carrel

Signature Wolfgang Hilger  
Notary Public for the State of Montana  
Residing at: Billings, MT  
My Commission Expires: 4-11-00