

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

June 26, 2015

Elected Official
[See attached list]

Re: FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad Company, Inc.—Rail Construction and
Operation—In Custer, Powder River and Rosebud Counties, Mont.

Dear []:

Thank you for your April 9, 2015 letter addressed to Acting Chairwoman Miller and Members of the Surface Transportation Board regarding the Tongue River Railroad Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because your letter raises environmental concerns, Acting Chairwoman Miller asked me, as the Director of the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA), to respond on the Board's behalf.

OEA is responsible for conducting the environmental review process to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and related environmental laws as part of the Board's licensing process. OEA issued the Draft EIS, which includes an analysis of downline impacts that addresses your concerns, on April 17, 2015 and requested comments from interested parties and the public. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to submit written comments on the Draft EIS. Comments are due by August 24, 2015 and may be mailed to the attention of Ken Blodgett of my staff or filed electronically on the project website (www.tonguerivereis.com). The Draft EIS is available for viewing and downloading on the Board's website (www.stb.dot.gov) and on the project website.

After the close of the public comment period, we will prepare a Final EIS that responds to comments on the Draft EIS and makes recommendations to the Board, including recommendations for mitigation measures. In reaching its final decision whether to approve, deny, or approve with environmental mitigation conditions Tongue River Railroad's proposal, the Board will consider the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and all environmental comments that are received.

Again, thank you very much for your letter. We have placed your letter and my response in the environmental record for this proceeding. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-245-0295 or Danielle Gosselin of my staff at 202-245-0300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Rutson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a stylized "R".

Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis

Last	First	Position	Location	Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
Malek	Sue	State Senator, SD 46	Missoula, MT	1400 PRAIRIE WAY	MISSOULA	MT	59802-3420
Facey	Tom	State Senator, SD 50	Missoula, MT	418 PLYMOUTH ST	MISSOULA	MT	59801-4133
Kaufmann	Christine	State Senator, SD 40	Helena, MT	825 BRECKENRIDGE ST	HELENA	MT	59601-4433
Haladay	Andres	City Commissioner	Helena, MT	316 N. PARK	HELENA	MT	59623
Haque-Hausrath	Katherine	City Commissioner	Helena, MT	316 N. PARK	HELENA	MT	59623
Woods	Tom	State Representative, HD 62	Bozeman, MT	1122 N SPRUCE DR	BOZEMAN	MT	59715-5949
Hayman	Denise	State Representative, HD 66	Bozeman, MT	120 SOURDOUGH RIDGE RD	BOZEMAN	MT	59715-9264
Brown	Zach	State Representative, HD 63	Bozeman, MT	503 S WILLSON AVE	BOZEMAN	MT	59715-5236
Court	Virginia	State Representative, HD 50	Billings, MT	18 HEATHERWOOD LN	BILLINGS	MT	59102-2449
Kelker	Kathy	State Representative, HD 47	Billings, MT	2438 RIMROCK RD	BILLINGS	MT	59102-6716
MacDonald	Margie	State Representative, HD 51	Billings, MT	4111 JUNE DR	BILLINGS	MT	59106-1565
Driscoll	Robyn	State Senator, SD 25	Billings, MT	404 HOULE DR	BILLINGS	MT	59102-4861
Crouch	Ken	City Councilman	Billings, MT	3440 GRANGER AVE. SOUTH #41	BILLINGS	MT	59102
Bird	Becky	City Councilwoman	Billings, MT	117 ARDMORE DRIVE	BILLINGS	MT	59102
Yakawich	Mike	City Councilman	Billings, MT	206 S. 32ND ST.	BILLINGS	MT	59101