



BCC 2015-052
April 23, 2015

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Tom Livers
DEQ Director
Lee Metcalf Building, Main Office
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

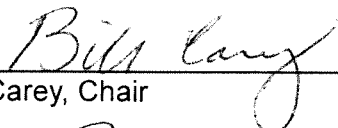
Daniel R. Elliott III
STB Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. Livers and Mr. Elliott:

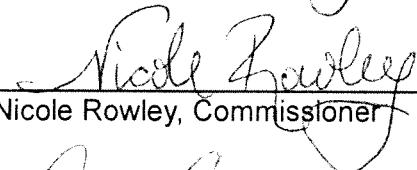
Missoula County, Montana, is bisected by the southern main rail line used by the Montana Rail Link (MRL) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad companies. This rail line represents the easiest way to transport coal from southeast Montana to the west coast. The proposed Tongue River Railroad, which is jointly owned by Arch Coal, BNSF, and Forrest Mars, Jr., would be the main conduit for transporting coal from Otter Creek to the existing MRL/BNSF line.

Our residents have a significant interest in the use of this rail line. Therefore, the Missoula County Commission requests that the federal Surface Transportation Board and state Department of Environmental Quality hold public hearings in Missoula, during the public comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS) for the Tongue River Railroad and Otter Creek Mine, respectively. Thank you for your consideration.

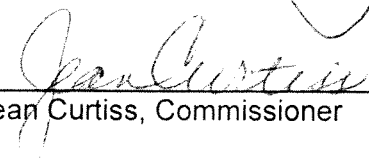
Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA



Bill Carey, Chair



Nicole Rowley, Commissioner



Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

BCC/ppr
cc: Nick Engelfried
Jeff Smith
Cate Campbell

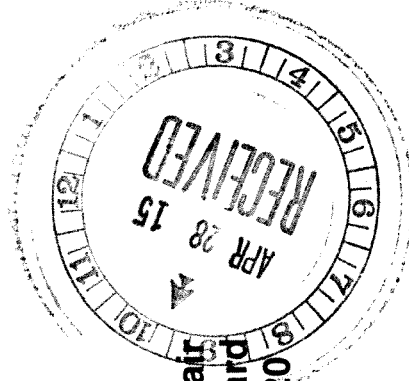


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200 W BROADWAY ST
MISSOULA MT 59802-4292

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Daniel R. Elliott, III, STB Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW, Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423

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