

December 4, 2012

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD 30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

I strongly oppose the construction of the Tongue River Railroad and increased coal-for-export traffic throughout Montana.

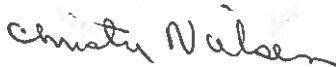
I was born and raised in Montana, not far from the proposed railroad site. It is a beautiful valley that does not need to be destroyed just so a coal company can become richer selling coal to Asia.

The railroad would have a negative effect on the agricultural industry in Montana, cutting up many ranchers private land, making it harder or impossible for them to raise cattle, sheep, horses, etc. as they are currently doing. For example, a rancher I know would have his pasture land cut in two; half of it would no longer have water that animals could get to because of a railroad. This is not acceptable in an area that is totally dependent on agriculture for a living. It would take good farm and ranch land out of production, would make farms and ranches more difficult to operate, and would devalue property through the Tongue River Valley.

This proposal would condemn private land to build a railroad for corporate profit. How would you like it if your back yard was condemned on you so some company could get rich?

I ask you to consider these impacts in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, to act upon the statewide opposition to this project, and to pursue the no-action alternative.

Thank you,



Christy Nielsen
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