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Commenter: David Strong

Organization:

State: Montana

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

I am opposed to the Tongue River Railroad. This "single use" railroad should not have the right of eminent domain -- that should be illegal. I am concerned about the environmental and social consequences of this development. It will be a leap forward in turning upside down our rural communities with the development of the Powder River basin coal. More affluence through mining will also threaten the quality of life through more crime, drugs, sexual exploitation. Quality of life in Montana means far more than just money, and that far more hasn't been discussed and evaluated sufficiently by local people or by the people of Montana. (Besides, stripmining itself, as opposed to underground mining, generates minimal jobs.) I am also concerned about the adverse environmental consequences, as I share these same ones with the Northern Plains Resource Council. Finally, and just as importantly, I want to go on record as opposing this development because of climate change concerns. According to Obama's EPA's mandate on this past Monday, August 4, 2015 Montana must meet a 47% reduction of its CO2 emissions by 2030. The Tongue River Railroad will take us in the diametrically wrong direction for this to occur. And it doesn't matter if most of the coal will be burned in Asia for it will still be heating up The Big Sky. I am opposed to making this the Big Hot Sky state and your children and grandchildren will be , too. Shame on us!