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Commenter: Dave Grainger

Organization:

State: Utah

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

As a voter and active user of public lands, particularly in Montana my entire life, I write to express my adamant opposition to the application from Arch Coal to the STB for permits to construct and operate new railroad lines and a new coal mine in environmentally sensitive areas of Montana described in their application. These areas are very popular for public access for hunting and represent the largest and oldest block management area in the state. The Arch Coal permit application is purely based on greed and self-styled corporate profit and does little to satisfy the criteria for "public interest and necessity". Arch Coal is in dire financial condition and has demonstrated its poor stewardship of Montana lands for decades. They are compelled financially to do something and they are desperate. Access to prime Montana wilderness is not a good answer. There is nothing in the application that justifies benefit to the public interest or necessity. Yet another train line and yet another coal mine do little but satisfy Arch Coal's management's needs to better perform in front of their investors. This is not public benefit. And it does not justify violating the footprint of one of Montana's last and largest undeveloped wilderness blocks. I urge STB to deny Arch Coal this permit. Sincerely,
Dave Grainger