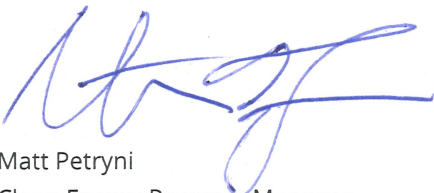


August 19, 2015

Program ContactMatt Petryni
Clean Energy Program Manager
mattp@re-sources.org
Phone 360.733.8307**Ken Blodgett****Surface Transportation Board**395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423
ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis
Docket No. 30186**Dear Mr. Blodgett:**

Please find enclosed three comments from our members regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Tongue River Railroad project, docket number 30186. Though we are submitting these comments in a single enclosure, they come from separate individuals and should be included in the public record on this proceeding as distinct and independent comments.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding,

Matt Petryni
Clean Energy Program Manager
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

Dear Victoria Rutson, Surface Transportation Board,

I fervently oppose construction of the Tongue River Railroad. I urge and implore the STB to take the "no action alternative."

In an area so uniquely valuable and so dependent on a single water source, it would be downright criminal to permanently disrupt the ecosystem. To do so for a temporary project, a single product with failing economic viability and waning public approval is short sighted, egocentric, and utterly wasteful.

The Otter Creek mine is clearly a connected ~~part~~ impact of the railroad's construction. You must include its impacts in the final EIS for the downturn to have any merit. Otter Creek is the largest proposed coal mine in the US, representing 1.3 billion tons of coal that, if mined, would contribute to climate change for the next 55 years, if not indefinitely.

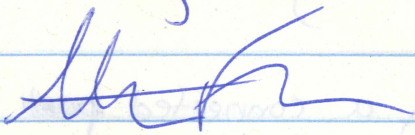
The draft EIS wrongly assumes that there is a domestic market for Otter Creek coal, and wrongly assumes zero train impacts from a rail line that would transport 18-26 additional cars per day!

The impacts of the rail road on Otter Creek Communities, ecosystems, resources include a dramatic

increase in rail traffic, air pollution from diesel and coal dust, disrupted productivity, water pollution, noise pollution, decreased land value, long term effects of global warming as a result of transportation and burning of the coal overseas, and disruption of American Heritage family ranches and ranching communities.

These impacts MUST be included in the EIS and the STB MUST take the no action alternative.

Sincerely,



Alissa French