

CITY OF MOSIER

small enough to make a difference

PO Box 456 | 208 Washington Street, Mosier, OR 97040
Phone: 541.478.3505 | www.CityofMosier.com

Mayor Andrea Rogers
Councilor Arlene Burns
Councilor Garth Knighlinger
Councilor Mary Lee Perry
Councilor Emily Reed
Councilor Penny Wallace

November 19th, 2014

Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Request to include CITY OF MOSIER in the review of the proposed Tongue River Railroad

Chairman Elliott and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

It has come to our attention that the rail line that traverses the Columbia River Gorge, which is owned/leased/operated by Burlington Northern Sante Fe Rail Road, could experience the negative impacts of exporting coal by train from the Powder River Basin to proposed West Coast ports. We understand that the construction of the Tongue River Railroad would contribute significantly to this additional traffic of hazardous freight through the Columbia Gorge, as it would connect the proposed Otter Creek coal mine to the existing rail line.

Since these additional coal trains would impact the City of Mosier, Oregon, we hereby request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) consider the City of Mosier in your Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tongue River Railroad, and consult with us as the review process moves forward.

The City of Mosier is located on the Columbia River in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Tourists visiting this national treasure also visit Mosier because we offer excellent cycling roads through the natural scenic beauty of the Gorge and because the City of Mosier has invested heavily in a waterfront park that includes a windsurfing beach on the Columbia River. Recreational tourism in the Columbia Gorge is based on fishing, kayaking, and other river-sports like windsurfing and kiteboarding. The City of Mosier relies heavily on these resources to support the local business within our downtown core.

The proposals to run open train cars full of coal through the Columbia River Gorge could heavily impact every sector of the Mosier community and economy. These proposals represent a change in the usage of the rail lines that is unprecedented.

Please consider and formally include the City of Mosier as you move forward in the review process for the Tongue River Railroad.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrea Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rogers".

Andrea Rogers
Mayor, City of Mosier

cc: Deb Miller, STB Vice Chair
Ann D. Begeman, Board Member
Victoria Rutson, Director, STB Office of Environmental Analysis
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley