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Commenter: Ellen Knight

Organization:

State: Montana

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

Ellen Knight

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My name is Ellen Knight. I live at 5800 Rattlesnake in Missoula. I've been concerned about energy issues for about 40 years. Particularly on this issue, I've been concerned and active in addressing the issue of coal trains coming through the town and many towns along the proposed route.

It seems to me that a huge cost has been left unaddressed, at least by Arch Coal and the railroad. That is they plan to leave the cost of delays and safety delays by trains crossing the tracks to people. Most of us who need to cross tracks, if the fire trucks or the ambulance needs to come, we are the ones who pay the cost.

I think the Surface Transportation Board shouldn't, in some dismal state of mind, allow this. At least charge Arch and the railroad companies for the cost of underpasses and overpasses in every community. I think that's a big cost.

Also, I want to say that the dEIS is obviously really badly done. In spite of that, I worry that they might allow these tracks and I want to urge the Board to be honest and courageous in the decision you make, and if you do that, I don't see any way that you could approve this railroad.