



Fw: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad
Kenneth Blodgett to: Joshua Wayland

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From: "Margarita McLarty" <margarita@wispwest.net>
To: <blodgett@stb.dot.gov>
Date: 01/21/2013 05:42 PM
Subject: Docket No. FD 30186, Tongue River Railroad

Livingston, Montana is the nearest community to where I live in Pray, Montana. At least once a week I go to Livingston to shop, volunteer as a tutor, meet with friends and watch the trains roll by.

There is an ever increasing number of trains that bisect Livingston each day, making our lives subject to more frequent delays, impacting the ability of emergency vehicles to reach many of our neighbors, and exposing us all to increased diesel emissions and coal dust. To further increase coal train traffic will exacerbate an already untenable situation.

The evidence of the multitude of harmful results from mining, transporting and burning Montana's Powder River Basin coal is overwhelming. When we look at the costs to public health from toxic residues, the costs to our communities from climate change caused (in part) by burning coal, the environmental catastrophes resulting from toxic pollution, the dangers from train traffic blocking emergency vehicle access, the extreme stress placed on civic institutions from boom and bust extractive industry, the profit to be made by a few corporate entities simply does not outweigh the harm to the public and our planet.

It is time for us to deny the permitting for mining and transportation of coal. It is past time for us to focus on creating clean, sustainable energy sources. It is time for us to prepare for a transition to a better tomorrow for our children.

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