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Organization:

State: Montana

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

Sirs, The news out of China often focuses on THEIR air pollution. Air pollution drifts out of country's borders, across oceans, and affects all living beings on the planet. It is all too easy to blame the Chinese for their run-away pollution of rivers, oceans, and the atmosphere but, as an active contributor in supplying the coal while simultaneously consuming goods from China, we (US) are clearly culpable. Shipping Montana coal to China has a negative environment impact on the world. The argument FOR this activity is always jobs and money, a short sided argument to say the least. The bigger picture is the pollution of which we are willing participants in creating. Short term gains in exchange for long term negative environmental effects is all too often the ONLY consideration. I oppose providing The Tongue River Railroad Company permits to extend their rail line which would facilitate shipping more Montana coal to China so they can burn it and return it to us in the form of air pollution. Sure, China will get coal somewhere else but we (US) must remove ourselves from this equation. With environmental degradation now at levels that threaten most life on earth it is time to stand up for this bigger cause. Sincerely, Richard Brown