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Submission Text

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Hello. My name is Carolyn Walker. I live at 411 Woodworth in Missoula. I am squeezed from both ends of this railroad. That beautiful woman in the video was my daughter. The two little boys swinging from the tires are my grandsons.

What I really want to talk about most of all is water. Missoula has five rivers running around it. The Tongue River is the central point for the creeks all the way around. There's Otter Creek, of course, which isn't all that close to the Tongue River as the crow flies. Then there's Hanging Woman Creek which is where my daughter's ranch is, and East Fork of Hanging Woman Creek, I don't know how it got named that.

The other thing is the groundwater. Water, as people are beginning to understand, is more valuable than any fossil fuel or petroleum, any substance beside air that we have on the planet. A lot of the Tongue River water comes from underground. It's groundwater, and if that coal is mined, it goes away. It just drains away. You can't get it to come back.

The other thing I want to talk about is that we're all told to eat less meat. There's one thing about that area by Clint McRae - and I know Clint's dad, Wally. I lived there for 20 years - is grass. That is really good grass. If we would plough under all the corn and soybeans in the country and begin to raise grass, we'd have fewer beef animals, but they would be better for us, and we'd have less carbon in the air and more breathable air and water.

I want to thank you, and please no action alternative. Thank you.