



**Clean & Healthful.
It's your right, our mission.**

September 21, 2015

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20423
ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis
Docket No. 30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

Contained within this package are approximately 850 comments from citizens across the nation who are in opposition to the proposed Tongue River Railroad, and urge you to select the "No Action Alternative." The vast majority of these comments come from Montana citizens who will be directly impacted by the railroad's construction in the form of increased coal train traffic and its associated public health and social impacts.

Specifically, the comments urge against the construction of the railroad under the following language:

"Dear Victoria Rutson, Surface Transportation Board:

I oppose the construction of the Tongue River Railroad, and urge the STB to take the "no action alternative." The railroad proposes to haul coal from the speculative Otter Creek mine at a time when coal markets are crumbling both domestically and around the world. The Otter Creek mine is clearly a connected impact of the railroad's construction. Otter Creek is the largest proposed coal mine in the U.S., and if its 1.3 billion tons of coal are mined and burned, it would contribute to climate change for the next 55 years.

The draft EIS wrongly assumes that there will be no train traffic impacts from the construction of a rail line that could generate 18-26 additional coal trains per day traveling on existing rail lines. Rail communities between the proposed railroad and the Pacific Northwest export terminals would suffer the consequences of dramatically increased coal train traffic, including reduced property values, increased traffic congestion, safety hazards, and air pollution from both diesel exhaust and fugitive coal dust.

Please reject the coal-to-Asia railroad, protect private property rights, clean air, and the global climate."

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your decision to choose the "No Action Alternative" and to reject the proposed Tongue River Railroad.

Regards,

Derf Johnson
Clean Water Program Director & Staff Attorney
Montana Environmental Information Center