



SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL
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Ben Stuckart
Council President

August 7, 2014

Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Request to include Spokane in the review of the proposed Tongue River Railroad

Dear Chairman Elliott and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

The rail lines that run through downtown Spokane could experience a substantial increase in train traffic from exporting coal from the Powder River Basin to proposed West Coast ports. We understand that the construction of the Tongue River Railroad would contribute significantly to this additional traffic.

Since these additional coal trains would impact Spokane, I strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to consider Spokane in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tongue River Railroad.

We have specific concerns related to increased rail traffic, and believe that it is the responsibility of the Surface Transportation Board to ensure that communities are not forced to bear the costs of expensive safety and infrastructure upgrades to mitigate these community impacts. Our community lacks adequate funding for additional rail infrastructure projects, and we strongly believe the costs and risks must be divided fairly between the railroad and taxpayers.

Please consider including Spokane as you move forward in the review process for the Tongue River Railroad.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Stuckart
President, Spokane Washington City Council