



EI-19149

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Office of Environmental Analysis
Tongue River Railroad Project
Environmental Impact Statement

COMMENT FORM**How Do I Submit Comments?**

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, and clicking on the "E-Filing" link.

Please refer to Docket No. FD 30186 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. The comment deadline is ~~DECEMBER 5, 2012~~.

JANUARY 11 2013

Please see Attached Letter

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone
Email

Mike Conyell
1010 Main Street
Mike's City, MT 59301
406-234-2705
mikecon@michrivers.com

**Comments may be submitted
today or mailed to:**

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Environmental Filing, Docket No.
FD 30186
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

MINES CITY AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

1010 Main Street, Miles City, Montana 59301
Email: mineecon@midrivers.com

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Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
ATTN: Environmental Filing, Docket No. FD30186
395 E Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Recently I attended two hearings regarding the Tongue River Railroad EIS held in Miles City, Montana. I am submitting this letter in strong support of the Tongue River Railroad and passage of the EIS.

Miles City Area Economic Development Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support economic development opportunities in our community and Custer County, assist new businesses in getting started or located, existing businesses with any help they may need, infrastructure development, community leadership and communication, and workforce training. We have a dynamic 22 member Board of Directors made up of business and agricultural people from our area focused on making our community and region a better place to raise a family, work, and live.

We are in support of the Tongue River Railroad project in one of two alternatives: 1) the Tongue River Road alternative or 2) the Tongue River alternative. Many would have us believe this railroad would literally "destroy the land and river" along the proposed routes. However, there are thousands of railroad lines crossing our country that have proven to be valuable assets to our economic development and DO NOT destroy land and water or prove to have significant environment impacts. As was told by several ranchers in these meetings they have had no significant issues with the railroads crossing their property and in fact there have been several significant benefits from them.

We believe this railroad will provide very significant positive impacts to our region with minimal and certainly not long term negative environment impacts to land, livestock or people along this route. We understand some inconvenience but certainly those that can be mitigated by cooperative efforts of the railroad and landowners. Progress sometimes causes change, but individuals who embrace change and find advantages to gain from it are far more successful in the long run.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Southeastern Montana, an area that has had serious economic struggles in the past 30 years, to move forward with a project that will have very positive benefits for our schools, communities, and region for many years to come. We encourage your support of this EIS for the development of the Tongue River Railroad.

Sincerely,


Mike Coryell, Executive Director