

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

POWDER RIVER COUNTY
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Les Thompson, Broadus
David Richards, Broadus
Darold L. Zimmer

January 8, 2013

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

RE: Docket No. FD 30186

Dear Surface Transportation Board:

Powder River County Commission has always pursued and supported responsible development of our natural resources. The Tongue River Railroad is no exception. We feel that with current MEPA, EPA, State and Federal rules, regulations and laws, the railroad will meet our standards.

Powder River County has one of the lowest mill values in the state. We also have the lowest per capita income, not only in Montana, but in the nation. Our greatest export continues to be our high school graduates who move out of the area for jobs. There are 27 million tons of coal reserves in Powder River County. This is the closest we have come to getting that coal developed. The jobs are needed in this area and the revenue will help our county and the State of Montana move forward in a positive direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Tongue River Railroad project.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POWDER RIVER COUNTY


Les Thompson, Chairman


David Richards


Darold L. Zimmer