

To: Surface Transportation Board

From: Levi McEuen, Resident, Powder River County, MT

RE: Tongue River Railroad

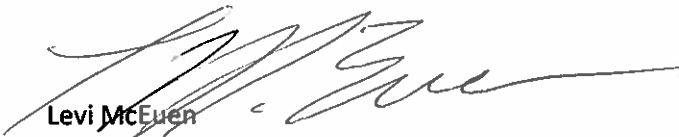
Docket No. FD30186

Southeastern Montana is my home (Broadus, MT). Unfortunately, for twenty three years I had to leave my home town to seek employment elsewhere. While away from my community I worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. My last six years of employment for them was as their Coal Superintendent for Colorado and Utah. As you know my railroad operated in very remote and scenic areas of these two respective states. Very much the same as where the TRRR intends to operate. I understand the challenges of operating a railroad in this type of environment. I know that many of the obstacles that individuals see to having a railroad operating along the Tongue River can be removed with truthful communication based on facts. I know that the environment, the people and the railroad can all learn to work together.

I understand the need to have our peace and our traditions but more importantly I understand the need for Southeastern Montana to have a railroad. The TRRR will allow industry to provide a place of employment for the many fine individuals that do not want to leave this area of the state. Without this opportunity that is before us many of the towns that are in Eastern Montana will become ghost towns. These business opportunities will keep people here and bring life to this area of Montana. Without it we are dying.

The opportunity for employment, any coal mines, other industry, etc. that may come about hinges upon the Tongue River Railroad. I strongly encourage this opportunity to happen.

Sincerely,



Levi McEuen

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