

July 10, 2015

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street
Washington, DC 20423

RE: Docket NO. 30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

Coal is in the news again today. Rep. Ryan Zinke wants to block an Interior Department proposal that would overhaul coal royalty payments. He would block the opportunity for taxpayers to get what they deserve for the sale of our coal.

And so it goes, that Montana citizens lose. This news reinforces my opposition to the proposed Tongue River railroad that would take land from Montana landowners in order to profit outsiders. The proposed railroad makes no sense on so many levels, and on every level, Montanans lose. We lose land and heritage, we lose property values, we lose a healthy environment,

I live in a community that is bisected by the railroad. Increased rail traffic would increase noise and air pollution. Already cars back up, idling waiting for trains to pass. Already,

residents are awoken through the night as trains blow their whistles at each of the three sites where the tracks cross the streets in my little town, their blaring echoing through the night. I am alarmed at how increased train traffic will affect my town. Small businesses flank the tracks. It is most likely their businesses will suffer, whose health club is going to prosper in that environment? Whose physical therapy business? Whose restaurant? The loss would not only be felt in Montana, but all along the route to the yet existent port in Washington. All the profit sailing away, leaving the tracks of pollution and loss.

It is time to put people before coal company profits.

Thank you,
Susan Schwab
507 N. Broadway
Belgrade MT 59714