



NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE
ADMINISTRATION
P.O. Box 128
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043
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July 27, 2015

Victoria Ruston, Director
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20423

Re: Request to Extend Deadline for Comments on Tongue River Railroad DEIS

Director Ruston,

On behalf of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe ("Tribe"), I write to renew the Tribe's request for an extension of the deadline for filing comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") for the Tongue River Railroad proposal. This renewed request is supported by the Governor of Montana, who submitted a separate letter to the Board supporting the Tribe's request on July 21, 2015.

Previously, the Tribe requested a 120-day extension of the deadline—until October 21, 2015—in order to ensure that the Tribe can thoroughly review the extensive DEIS and provide meaningful feedback. The Surface Transportation Board denied the Tribe's request, but granted a 60-day extension (until August 24, 2015) requested by other parties. The Tribe was instructed that, if it requires additional time to prepare its comments, it should renew its request at a later date. Pursuant to the Board's instructions, the Tribe is now renewing its request to extend the deadline until October 21, 2015.

The extension is appropriate due to the extensive and highly technical scope of the DEIS. The DEIS is over 3,500 pages, including appendices. It covers wide-ranging topics, including: transportation, greenhouse gas emissions, coal dust, noise and vibration, vegetation, wildlife, fish, water resources, visual resources, cultural resources, land resources, geology, soils, paleontological resources, socioeconomics, and cumulative impacts. Each of these varied and often complex subject matters are relevant to the wellbeing of the Tribe. In fact, the proponent's preferred alternative for the railroad would skirt the Reservation to the north and east.

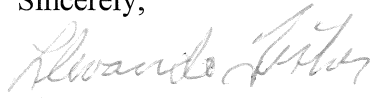
In order to provide quality comments on the wide-ranging topics of the DEIS, the Tribe will need substantially more time than the amount currently allocated to complete its review of the analysis in the DEIS; gather independent information regarding potential impacts of the Tongue River

**LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back
to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.**

Railroad proposal; coordinate and compile input from expert consultants, tribal government agencies, and other representatives; and draft extensive comments voicing the Tribe's concerns.

The Tribe appreciates your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Llevando Fisher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Llevando Fisher, President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

July 21, 2015

Victoria Ruston, Director
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Environmental Analysis
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

RE: Comment Period for the Proposed Tongue River Railroad Extension

Dear Director Ruston:

As Governor of the State of Montana I have committed to effective government-government relationships with all Montana Tribal Nations. I have worked to develop trust, mutual understanding, and respect for each tribe.

As member of the Board of Land Commissioners, I supported the Northern Cheyenne Tribe Lands Act to rectify a claimed error which deprived the tribe of ownership of sections of Reservation subsurface rights.

I write now in support of the request by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe for an extension of the comment period for the proposed Tongue River Railroad. The railroad will very likely have substantial impacts on the Tribe and the lives of its members.

Thank you for your consideration to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Bullock", written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Llevando Fisher, President Northern Cheyenne Tribe