

Mr. Ken Blodgett  
 Surface Transportation Board  
 395 E .Street, SW  
 Washington, DC. 20423-0001

February 5, 2013

Regarding: Docket No. FD30186

Mr. Blodgett,

Assuming that you are a caring human being, I would like to make several points to convince you NOT to allow the building of the Tongue River Railway, which is proposed to streamline the transit of coal to China and other Asian countries.

Would you hand your car keys to a drunk friend?  
 Would you give a box of irresistible chocolates to a diabetic?  
 Would you give a gun to a child?

I think you get the point. WE CAN SEE the opaque air in China. WE CAN SEE the people wearing largely useless masks when outdoors in China. WE KNOW that scientific instruments measure and document that the air in China is already life threatening. Those levels of toxins are acknowledged by the authorities in China, who warn citizens not to go outside, while at the same time they have already approved far more toxin spewing coal plants. Add this to the projected number of cars in China in the near future, and the additional impact of all that CO on the air quality.

Toxins in the air are not illusive. They are known to exist, they destroy the quality of life, they sicken, they kill. And yet, the people are helpless against the actions of their own Government.

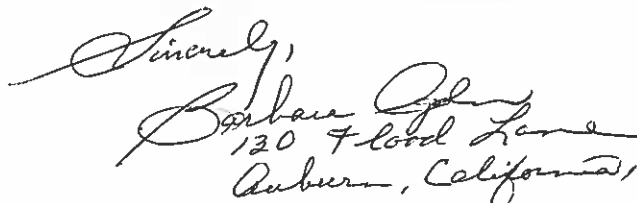
WHOSE SIDE DO YOU WANT TO BE ON?

Should we ignore the fate of the people and their environment by expediting the availability of coal...the very poison that is already destroying the health and quality of life of millions of innocent people? Is this not just like supplying ammunition to an assassin? Just because one does not physically see the suffering of others does not mean it isn't happening. To be party to their suffering is unconscionable.

And yet.....the discussions in your department center around the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT in the local Tongue River area that would be exposed to the toxins. Citizens are voicing concern about their PROPERTY VALUES, which would, quite likely, be devalued, should the railway be built. These and all the environmental and health concerns of Americans are extremely important. But we cannot base such a serious decision on local impact.

What about the impact on the men, women and children in China? Do we Americans not care? Have we no conscience in global matters? How sad if we do not. We MUST think globally. We must consider more than political or financial gain.

Lastly, YOU, in your position, must realize.....you MUST REALIZE...that THE AIR IN CHINA EVENTUALLY BECOMES OUR AIR. Quite literally. So making the right decision on this matter cannot be taken lightly. Please.....DO THE RIGHT THING.

Sincerely,  
  
 Barbara Olson  
 120 Flood Lane  
 Auburn, California, 95603