

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POWDER RIVER COUNTY**

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September 11, 2015

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

Attn: Environmental filing, Docket #30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

We are writing to support the Tongue River Railroad Company's (TRRC) approval for construction and operation of a rail line in southeastern Montana. We believe that the railroad would provide our county and Eastern Montana with the opportunity to provide much needed low-sulfur coal for our country and the world from the largest remaining undeveloped coal reserves in the United States.

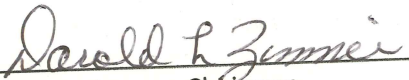
The TRRC will bolster the sagging economy of southeastern Montana. While many areas of the country are seeing economic growth, the declining agriculture economy is affecting the economy of rural Montana. The TRR will provide an opportunity for development of additional mines which will provide badly needed jobs, a tax base and revenue for local governments and an opportunity for our residents to remain in the community.

Utility coal market demand is driven by the need to burn low sulfur coal to comply with the nation's clean air standards. The opportunity to develop eastern Montana's super compliant coal reserves exists with the TRR project. This opportunity should not be lost. We urge you to approve the railroad quickly and allow construction to begin.

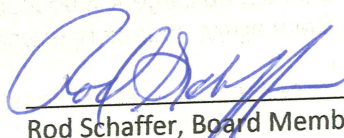
Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POWDER RIVER COUNTY


Darold L. Zimmer, Chairman

David Richards, Board Member


Rod Schaffer, Board Member