

Submission Number: *FD-30186-000330*

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Commenter: Colin Lauderdale

Organization: Northern Plains Resource Council

State: Montana

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

Please accept the attached comments from members of the Western Organization of Resource Councils. These comments are 13 individual actions taken by 13 individuals, and should be considered as such. Thank you.

Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis Docket No. 30186
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. Blodgett,

I am opposed to the permitting and construction of the Tongue River Railroad and urge the Surface Transportation Board to select the “no action” alternative and deny the railroad’s permit. At a time when coal markets are diminishing, there’s no justification to build the railroad, especially given the negative impacts the TRR would have on southeastern Montana and downrail communities.

The TRR would condemn private property, disrupting and damaging ranches that have been in Montana families for generations. As a resident of Livingston, MT, I have already been negatively impacted by increased coal train traffic. The additional coal train traffic the TRR would carry would lead to further significant downrail impacts – from increased coal dust and diesel exhaust to longer waits for emergency vehicles stuck at railroad crossings waiting for trains to go by. Furthermore, the cost of infrastructure (overpasses, underpasses, etc.) to deal with these impacts would be borne by local taxpayers, meaning the TRR would have a direct negative financial impact on dozens of downrail communities in Montana and beyond. None of these downrail impacts were adequately addressed by the draft EIS.

One private company shouldn’t have the right to condemn dozens of miles of family ranchland and push millions of dollars of infrastructure costs onto cities and towns throughout Montana and the region just so it can make money selling coal to Asia. Please deny the Tongue River Railroad permit application.

Thank you.

Donna Onstott
P. O. Box 830
Livingston, MT 59047

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Jim Huntzicker
2 Mountainbrook road
Livingston , MT 59047

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Cathryn Arno
928 Elm St
Missoula, MT 59802

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Franci Taylor
1517 Waukesha
Helena, MT 59601

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Ada Montague
712 Hillsdale Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

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Michael Babcock
2716 2nd Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405

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Joseph Newton
4600 Custer Frtg Rd
Pompeys Pillar, MT 59064

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Brian Talcott
PO Box 62
Roseville, CA 95661

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Bertha Brown
#6 Hollowbreast Street
P.O. Box 13
Lame Deer, MT 59043

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Lyla Dyer
76 Skyline Dr
Billings, MT 59105

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Surface Transportation Board
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Dear Mr. Blodgett,

Please DO NOT approve the Tongue River Railroad. This is a bad and unneeded project with a seriously flawed E.I.S.

Thank you,
T.H. Crawford
1300 Dry Creek School Rd.
Belgrade, MT 59714
(406) 585-9333

Tim Crawford
15 South Tracy, Suite 8
Bozeman, MT 59715

(406) 585-9333

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Patricia Dunkum
601 E Beckwith Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

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Chad Zeitner
2915 Secor ave
Bozeman , MT 59715