

Safe Energy Leadership Alliance

May 21, 2015

Victoria Rutson
Director, Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Tongue River Railroad DEIS and Public Comment Period

Dear Ms. Rutson:

On behalf of the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance (SELA), I am writing to request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) grant a 60 day extension to the public comment period for the Tongue River Railroad (TRR) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We believe that members of the public should be allowed 120 days to review and comment on this important document.

SELA is a coalition of more than 160 elected leaders from across the Western United States and British Columbia. Based on the document's length and magnitude, impacted communities will require significant time to review the DEIS and prepare substantive comments. If approved, this proposed project would significantly increase coal train traffic through many of our jurisdictions, impacting the health, safety, traffic, economy, and environment in our communities. Given the very real stake SELA members and their constituents have in this project – especially those along the various routes who potentially face condemnation – an extended comment period is necessary to ensure that this proposed project receives the attention and due diligence it deserves.

As members of SELA, we are bridging interests of urban and rural communities and standing together to defend the health and safety of our people in the face of ever-growing coal and crude oil shipments. Consequently, we respectfully request the STB extend the public comment period on the TRR DEIS to 120 days.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Chair of SELA

cc: SELA members