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May 14, 2015

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

Re: Request for extension of comment deadline on Tongue River Railroad Draft
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I have just returned from a two-day visit to Rosebud County, MT to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) with the landowners I represent. The landowners are in the middle of branding season and very busy with farm and ranch chores. They have been fighting wildfires already this spring and are preparing for a predicted drought. Responding to this dense technical document in addition to their daily obligations is a significant burden, as is paying an attorney.

The first two volumes of the DEIS are on their kitchen tables, where the landowners work through them as they have time. They have many serious concerns, including groundwater, livestock, and cultural resource impacts. Several have no internet access, so any research they do requires phone calls, documents sent by U.S.P.S., or travel to a library or government agency, up to two hours away in Billings. My comments on behalf of the group are now at 17 single-spaced pages and counting.

To accommodate the reality of the landowners' lives, I request a 60-day extension to the June 23, 2015 deadline. I believe that more time is necessary to provide the landowners with a reasonable opportunity for feedback on a proposal that would profoundly alter their community.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carrie La Seur", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Carrie La Seur
Attorney for Colstrip Alternative Landowners'
Group