



CITY OF STEVENSON

7121 E Loop Road, PO Box 371, Stevenson, WA 98648

March 17, 2015

Daniel R. Elliott, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Request to include Stevenson in the review of the proposed Tongue River Railroad

Dear Chairman Elliott and Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

The rail lines that run through the City of Stevenson, Washington could experience a substantial increase in train traffic from exporting coal from the Powder River Basin to proposed West Coast ports. We understand that construction of the Tongue River Railroad would contribute significantly to this additional traffic.

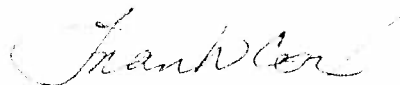
Since these additional coal trains would impact Stevenson, we urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider Stevenson in your Environmental Impact Statement for the Tongue River Railroad, and consult with us as the review process moves forward.

We have specific concerns related to increased rail traffic, and believe that it is the responsibility of the Surface Transportation Board to ensure that communities are not forced to bear the costs of expensive safety and infrastructure upgrades to mitigate these community impacts. Our community lacks adequate funding for additional rail infrastructure projects and we believe these costs and risks must be divided fairly between the railroad and taxpayers.

Please consider, and formally include, the City of Stevenson, Washington, as you move forward in the review process for the Tongue River Railroad.

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

Sincerely,


Frank Cox, Mayor