

Alexandra Amonette
1939 Marshall Ave.
Richland, WA 99354

January 11, 2013

Mr. Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Docket No. FD 30186

Dear Mr. Blodgett:

I oppose the shipping of coal from the US to China or anywhere else because if we do not stop causing CO2 to go up into the atmosphere, we will never be able to reverse the devastating and catastrophic impacts of global warming. I also oppose the continued mining of coal because we need desperately to use renewable resources of energy. All coal, oil, and natural gas should now **stay in the ground and under the sea and not be mined**. Conservation should be practiced by everyone and renewable energy should be used. There are many ways of achieving this. For an excellent roadmap, please see: *Carbon Free and Nuclear Free*, by Arjun Makhijani, IEER, available at <http://ieer.org/projects/carbon-free-nuclear-free/>.

Specifically, for the Tongue River Railroad, I repeat the remarks of many of us ranchers and landowners in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington with regard to the environmental impact statement for the proposed Tongue River Railroad:

The environmental impact statement for the proposed Tongue River Railroad should analyze the following:

- "Public convenience and necessity: This proposed railroad is not for the "public convenience and necessity" which is what is required in order for a body to get the power of eminent domain and condemnation authority. This railroad would serve only one coal company giant, Arch Coal, which intends to sell the coal to China and other Asian countries.
- Impacts on property values: The project would devalue property and infringes on property rights. This railroad will cause fires, spread weeds, devalue property (especially riverfront property), will make ranching and farming more difficult and expensive, will split ranch land in half and separate fields from the river and will shift the liability of train crossings to the landowner.
- Wildlife: The Tongue River Valley is rich in wildlife habitat and home to outstanding elk and mule deer populations as well as upland birds. Industrializing this valley with a railroad and the coal strip mine it serves will seriously degrade this excellent sportsman resource.
- Flooding: The railroad bed will act as an earthen dam and potentially worsen the flooding problems now experienced in Miles City in the winter with ice jams.
- Noise: The loud trains will ruin the quiet enjoyment of nearby recreation areas near Miles City.
- Infrastructure and traffic: Taxes will go up for residential communities along the rail lines as the coal heads to coastal ports for shipment. This railroad will increase coal train traffic substantially causing traffic delays, noise, and diesel pollution. The only way to live with this increased traffic will require expensive over passes and safety crossing which are paid for primarily by local taxpayers."

This long-proposed project renews its attempt to cut the valley in half, abusing the power of eminent domain to destroy good Montana ranchland. This is also a crime against the environment and all the people who depend on the ranch land to earn a living.

Sincerely,



Alex Amonette
Landowner in Montana