

Ann Wilsnack

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November 10, 2012
Ken Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
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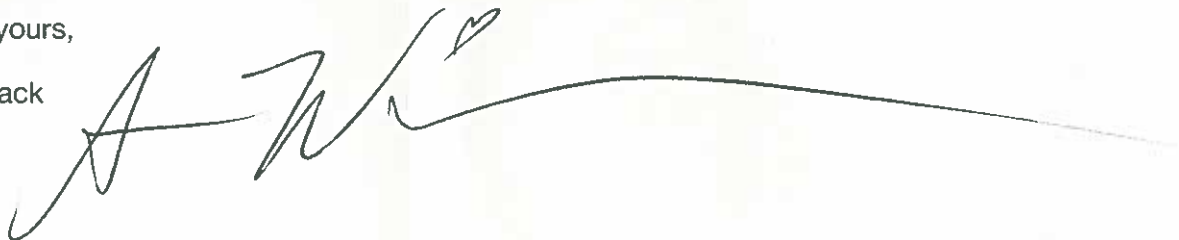
I am deeply concerned about the sale of 1.3 billion tons of coal to China. Coal is a non renewable resource that we are blessed to have. When burned it emits greenhouse gasses that will likely tip our deteriorating climate into more and more scary scenarios. Yes, selling coal in the short run is good for the pocket books of corporations and their investors, but for the earth and its long term economies it could have tragic effects. You have suffered through hurricane Sandy as have so many who lost their lives and certainly their comfort in the last days. In Montana we had smoky air pollution for at least a month longer than usual. We did not have the usual wet June, and we had very little rain to mitigate our long dry summer. When I moved to Montana in 1979, the joke was it rained 31 days in June. We could count on those rains to start our gardens--no longer.

As you must know, the science is in. Global Climate Change is effecting our world, its safety, economies, communities, beauty, forests, rivers, agriculture, and people. I worry about Amtrack that hugs the coast. What will happen in our lifetime to our railroads? What kind of a world will we see, what climate caused catastrophies will our children and grand children face?

We must be responsible about looking at all of the environmental impacts of sending coal to Asia, not to mention the impacts on my life as I drive my electric car around town and must wait again and again for the coal to go through. The US may need that coal in the future, right here in our country. Hopefully, we can sell renewable energy technology over seas and see a profit from it. I use the sun to cook my food and heat my house on sunny days. Let's work for solutions for the whole world now and in the future not profits for the few in the short run.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Wilsnack

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Wilsnack', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



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GREAT FALLS MT 594

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Be a star,
protect the
planet!
and
agriculture