

EI-19034

DEAR KEN,

NOV. 13, 2012

I AM WRITING TODAY TO URGE YOU NOT TO APPROVE THE TONLUE RIVER RAILROAD. WHILE MISSOULA, WHERE I LIVE, IS RELATIVELY REMOTE FROM THE PRISTINE TONLUE RIVER VALLEY (SE MONTANA IS CLOSER TO THE TEXAS PANHANDLE THAN IT IS TO THE NW CORNER OF THE STATE!) BNSF RAILROADS CARRY WITH MONTANA COAL BOUND FOR THE WEST COAST PASS THROUGH TOWN CONSTANTLY. APPROVAL OF THE TONLUE RIVER RAILROAD (TRR) WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT THIS COMMUNITY: WE DON'T WANT MORE DIRTY COAL TRAINS CLOGGING UP OUR RAIL LINES AND DISPLACING THE HAULING OF MONTANA'S AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES). THE BEAUTIFUL, AND SPARSELY POPULATED TONLUE RIVER VALLEY ITSELF WOULD BE DEVASTATED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1.3 BILLION TONS OF COAL IN THE OTTER CREEK AREA.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS SHOULD INCLUDE A FULL-BLOWN ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT STATEMENT THAT COMPREHENSIVELY CONSIDERS THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS THE TRR WILL HAVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND RAIL TRANSPORT. THE ANALYSIS SHOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT A NEW RAIL LINE COULD LEAD TO THE DIGGING, HAULING AND BURNING OF OTHER COAL RESOURCES IN THE AREA, CONTRIBUTING EVEN MORE THAN THE PROJECTED 2.6 BILLION TONS OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THAT WILL RESULT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTTER CREEK TRACTS ALONE. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THE TRR, AND HAPPY FALL.

SINCERELY,
JOHN



Downtown Missoula

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