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Organization:

State: Oregon

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

In order for the investment in the new railroad link to be economically justified, its cost must be amortized over decades which means that the coal mined at Otter Creek must be profitable. As we all know, coal is being phased out here in the United States as well as Europe and Asia, especially China. Coal's share prices are dropping due to increasing use of renewable energy. It makes no sense to invest in a dying industry. The Board's EIS did not consider the fact that the Otter Creek coal would be sharing tracks with highly explosive Bakken crude oil in the Columbia Gorge. What will be the environmental impact on the communities along its shared route? Our future in energy generation no longer rests on fossil fuels but renewable and sustainable energy. Investing in a dying industry is not economically rational nor is it environmentally sound. I strongly support the "NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE".