

July 22, 2015

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W. Washington, D.C.

ATTN: Office of Environmental Analysis, Docket No. 30186

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to choose the **No Action Alternative** on the Tongue River project

Your Environmental Impact Statement is flawed. You state, "All exported Tongue River coal would displace other Powder River coal that otherwise would have been exported rather than incrementally adding to the total tonnage of coal exported. "

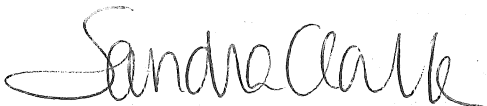
Data supporting this conclusion is outdated. It also ignores the environmental impacts of the proposed 45-mile spur line that will open the Otter Creek coal mine in southeastern Montana. Developing the Otter Creek Mine would release over *2.5 billion tons* of heat-trapping carbon dioxide when coal is burned. Dumping more than a billion tons of Montana coal on the market would be a disaster for our climate, triggering what the International Panel of Climate Change terms "abrupt or irreversible" tipping points.

There is no domestic market for Otter Creek coal. This coal will be exported to Asia. Your EIS ignores the cumulative environmental impacts of the rail traffic that will be needed to haul the coal through hundreds of communities in the Northwest along the 1,000-mile route to West Coast ports. These coal trains expose millions of Americans to increased pollution, endanger the water quality of Northwest's rivers and streams, and increase safety hazards.

Our nation should be transitioning to clean energy, but coal companies want to keep us locked into coal dependence for the next several decades. Indeed, the Surface Transportation Board must consider the safety and welfare of ordinary Americans rather than tailor its EIS to further the special interests of the Tongue River Railroad investors, Arch Coal, billionaire Warren Buffet, and Forrest Mars, Jr.

Please reject the Tongue River Railroad and leave the Otter Creek coal in the ground. Please choose the No Action Alternative.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Clark". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sandra Clark