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Submission Text

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Hello my name is Frank Kromkowski; my name spells just like it sounds K-R-O-M-K-O-W-S-K-I. I live at 1207 Houser here in Helena. I don't represent anybody, but I know what I care about. I know I care about my six grandchildren and my great granddaughter who is a year and a half.

I want to add, in Helena and in Montana and every place on earth for all the kids like them, a place that is safe, healthy to live in, and does not sacrifice their lives and their safety to the profits to someone like Arch Coal, which wants to use Montana resources and make us pay for infrastructure that would help them make profits. They're losing billions of dollars in their reckless use of coal energy at the moment, but the age of coal is over. We know that. The only reason that they want to do this is that they want to continue profiting on something that they had been profiting on for a long time. But I don't want my grandchildren and my great granddaughter Harper to be the victim of their greed and their profits because it is true as others have said that economics is not the only issue.

I like the idea of E.F. Schumacher from years ago; he said "You've got to remember that economics is the branch of ethics." That was in his article Buddhist economics back in the 70's. And that's true. What we do with our resources is judged by ethical values not merely financial values.

The cost to us right here in Helena in terms of eight additional trains, which will cause disruptions, more diesel fuel, more air pollution, all of it being profit for Arch Coal in their hopefully never started Otter Creek Mine, will take that coal not for the benefit of citizens anywhere, but will be at the destruction of citizens everywhere. The coal people in China, it will not come back to us except as pollution and profit for Arch Coal. Those are not my values, those are not the things I care about so I ask the Surface Transportation Board to scrap this draft EIS and start looking at the actual impacts for people all across Montana, and to stop deferring in some way to Arch Coal because of the few jobs they do create out in eastern Montana.

Thank you very much.