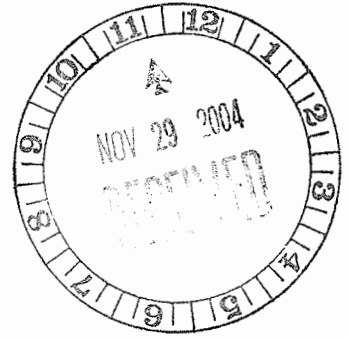


November 18, 2004

Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
Washington, D.C. 20423  
STB Docket No. FD 30186 (Sub-No.3)



Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the Tongue River Railroad for the following reasons.

The railroad has been studied in a piecemeal fashion, with no look at impacts of the project as a whole on the Tongue River and people who make their home in the valley. This directly violates the National Environmental Policy Act's mandate that agencies examine cumulative impacts of an entire project.

The EIS doesn't address the fact that coal bed methane development, coupled with a coal hauling railroad, and a 750 megawatt power plant and coal mine would turn the Tongue River Valley into an industrialized zone. Such an impact would make it difficult for hundreds of farmers and ranchers in the area to continue to make a living off the land.

The project negatively impacts:

- water ways
- property values
- wildlife
- wells and springs
- water quality
- air quality.

Finally, this railroad is not necessary. Coal is currently being transported by rail from Coalstrip and Gillette to the Midwest. The Ashland, Montana coal that supposedly would be hauled by the Tongue River Railroad lies under an 80 foot overburden, which makes it economically impractical for development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stan Taylor".

Stan Taylor  
PO Box 1367  
Miles City, Montana 59301

1-406-234-0062