

Montana State Senate



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✓ Daniel R. Elliott III, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW, Suite 1220
Washington, DC 20423

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Lee Metcalf Building, Main Office
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Mr. Elliott and Ms. Stone-Manning:

Based on concerns associated with the proposed Otter Creek Mine and the closely-related Tongue River Railroad, I respectfully request the United States Surface Transportation Board and Montana Department of Environmental Quality conduct public hearings in Missoula and other rail communities along the routes to Pacific port locations during the upcoming comment periods on the draft Environmental Impact Statements for these projects.

Conducting well-publicized public hearings in Missoula will provide Missoulians and other affected Montanans with an opportunity to express concerns as well as ensure that the impacts of coal development on rail towns like Missoula are not overlooked during the environmental review.

While I recognize that Montanans may submit concerns in writing during the comment period, public hearings allow stakeholders to express their concerns directly to decision-makers in a manner that written comments do not.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Wanzenried".

David E. Wanzenried