**TRR/STB Template Resolution**

**A resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to request that the Surface Transportation Board include \_\_\_\_\_ in the environmental review process of the Tongue River Railroad, and that it require the railroad(s) to share the costs of necessary infrastructure projects.**

**Whereas,**the City of \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, population \_\_\_\_, is bisected by the [rail line] used by the [railroad companies]; and

**Whereas,**this rail line represents the easiest way to transport coal from Southeast Montana to the West Coast; and

**Whereas,**Arch Coal's proposed Otter Creek Mine in Southeast Montana, the largest proposed new coal strip mine in the contiguous United States, is designed to supply coal to West Coast coal export terminals; and

**Whereas,**the proposed Tongue River Railroad, which is jointly owned by Arch Coal, BNSF, and Forrest Mars, Jr. would be the conduit for transporting coal from Otter Creek to the existing MRL/BNSF line; and

**Whereas,**building the Otter Creek Mine and Tongue River Railroad would therefore lead to increased coal train traffic through \_\_\_\_\_, contributing to higher levels of air and noise pollution and more frequent traffic delays at the \_\_\_\_\_\_ at-grade crossings; and

**Whereas,**these impacts will affect the health and quality of life of \_\_\_\_ residents, and require infrastructure upgrades to mitigate impacts, such as overpasses, underpasses, and quiet zones; and

**Whereas,** \_\_\_\_ lacks the funding to pay for necessary infrastructure projects and will be required to seek public funding for private benefit; and

**Whereas,** the Surface Transportation Board is the sole agency responsible for regulating railroads and has committed to consider the TRR’s impacts to down-line communities and the entire rail system in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Tongue River Railroad; and

**Whereas,** the Surface Transportation Board has the established authority to require railroad companies to help mitigate the cost of infrastructure improvements necessitated by new rail construction;

**Now therefore be it resolved by the \_\_\_\_\_\_**that building the Tongue River Railroad would affect the health and well-being of \_\_\_\_\_ residents, and require expensive infrastructure projects that we lack adequate funding for;

**Be it further resolved**that the \_\_\_\_\_ formally requests that the Surface Transportation Board consult with \_\_\_\_\_\_ to properly assess coal train traffic impacts are included in the Tongue River Railroad EIS process.

**Be it further resolved**that the \_\_\_\_\_ requests the Surface Transportation Board utilize the Tongue River Railroad proceeding to ensure that the costs of increased train traffic are shared fairly by railroad companies and not borne principally by community taxpayers;

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2014